

Hafa Adai!

Woman convicted of assaulting three men. **PAGE 2**

Kilili urges USCIS to verify legitimacy of employers. **PAGE 2**

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 41

www.saipantribune.com

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2018

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

75¢

## Ex-cop gets 4 years for burglaries

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**A** former police officer who burglarized two restaurants in western Garapan in 2016 was slapped with a four-year prison term yesterday.

Thirty-six-year-old Gordon Odoshi Seman was sentenced to a total of 10 years in prison, all suspended except for four years. He was given credit for time served.

After serving his sentence, he will be placed on probation for five years. He was ordered to pay \$2,083 in restitution to Kyung Ran Seo and \$4,462 in restitution to Sei-

See **EX-COP** on **Page 4**

## CHCC wants to block health threats at airport

By **BEA CABRERA**  
bea\_cabrera@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. now has an office at the Francisco Ada/Saipan International Airport, putting it at the frontline of safeguarding public health.

According to program director Warren Villagomez, having the Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program at the airport will ideally place it at the front in the fight against diseases and other pandemics that may be brought to the CNMI.

See **CHCC** on **Page 4**

### STATE CHAMPS

The Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps of Kagman High School won the unarmed drill state championship on Saturday, Feb. 24. In that same competition, the Saipan Southern High School JROTC won the overall trophy for the drill state championship in the armed division. Both KHS and SSSH teams will be going to the national competition in Torrance, California. Photo shows Kagman High School JROTC drill teams posing with their Army instructors.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## Fuel cost, hotel rates cited in Jin Air flight suspension

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A Korean-based airline that will temporarily pull out of the CNMI told the Commonwealth Ports Authority that high fuel rates and hotel costs contributed to their decision.

Saipan airport manager William Camacho, who met with the House Transportation Committee chaired by Rep. Donald Barcinas (R-Saipan) yesterday, said that Jin Air's decision to temporarily suspend five

weekly Seoul-Saipan flights starting March 25 was partially due to high fuel and hotel rates compared to neighboring Guam.

"Prices of fuel...as well as hotel rates...[are] high in the CNMI. Those are the things that they have mentioned to our own committee

dealing with airline slot time approvals," Camacho said, citing communication from Jin Air headquarters.

See **FUEL** on **Page 4**

## Continued detention sought for 2 in meth lab case

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The U.S. government sought yesterday the continued detention of two men who allegedly ran a clandestine meth lab on Saipan.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe said the U.S. District Court for the NMI should detain Vincent David Cabrera Jr. and Eugene Blas Repeki because no condition of release will ensure the safety of the community.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona

set the detention hearing for Friday at 8:30am and the preliminary examination on March 12 at 1:30pm.

Benjamin Petersburg appeared on behalf of Mark B. Hanson, who is the court-appointed counsel for the

See **DETENTION** on **Page 4**

### INSIDE



#### BUSINESS

Donald Trump's effort to curb immigration could actually hurt the U.S. economy.

**PAGE 13**



#### ASIA

China's Communist Party has proposed scrapping term limits for the country's president.

**PAGE 15**



#### LIFE & STYLE

The Weinstein Co. is expected to file for bankruptcy protection.

**PAGE 19**



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



**GOT A NEWS TIP?**

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com



# Local

## Woman convicted of assaulting three men

A woman has been convicted of assaulting three male co-workers over a videotape and was sentenced to 90 days in prison, all suspended if she successfully completes supervised probation.

At the end of the two-day bench trial last Thursday, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo found Shu Jie Tian guilty of three counts of assault and battery and three counts of disturbing the peace.

At her sentencing last Fri-

day, Tian was ordered to pay a \$4,500 fine, \$100 in court costs, and a \$120 probation fee. Tian, an accountant/cook, was placed on supervised probation for three years.

Tian was ordered to write a letter of apology to the victims: Bulbul Miah, Babul Miah, and Rana Sheik.

During trial, assistant attorneys general Frances T. Demapan and Jonathan Wilberscheid called six witnesses to the stand, including the three victims.

Defense counsel Stephen J. Nutting called three witnesses, including Tian.

According to the testimo-

nies, Tian yelled and slapped or punched Bulbul Miah, Babul Miah, and Sheik on July 12, 2017.

Demapan, the lead prosecu-

tor in the case, said the victims were trying to collect their unpaid wages and took a video using a phone on a structure that they helped build in Papago.

Demapan said that Tian, who is staying by the structure,

got upset and assaulted the three because she was in the video. In Chinese culture, to do that without permission was disrespectful and impolite.

The victims are Bangladesh nationals. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

## Kilili urges USCIS to verify legitimacy of employers; still awaiting response

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) is urging U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to take a closer look at employers who pe-

tition large numbers of CW-1 workers.

In a Jan. 10, 2018, letter to USCIS director Lee Francis Cissna, in a bid to prevent fraudulent CW-1 petitions, Sablan urged USCIS to undertake further review of employ-

ers who are:

1. petitioning for large numbers of CW-1 workers;

2. revoke or deny permits for businesses that cannot show evidence of genuine jobs, unable to show that they have sufficient resources to pay the workers, or are found not to be a legitimate business or to have violated or be in violation of federal or Commonwealth employment laws or regulations; and

3. return revoked or denied permits back to the CW-1 pool for the use of legitimate businesses.

"I also request[ed] that USCIS provide me a report on any employers that have petitioned for more than 200 CW-1 workers for fiscal year 2018, and, of these employers, the number and occupational categories of beneficiaries for whom permits have been approved, denied, rejected, or remain pending as of Jan. 12, 2018, and the number of petitions that are new and the number that are renewals," Sablan said.

The report had a deadline of Jan. 20, 2018, which was 10 business days from the letter's date.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Sablan said he is still waiting for the USCIS report.

Sablan's letter to Cissna said that his office has been receiving reports from several employers in the CNMI of USCIS denying their CW permits because USCIS has "received a sufficient number of petitions to reach the fiscal year 2018 CW-1 cap."

"These reports require an explanation," wrote Sablan in his letter.

The lack of CW-1 slots baffled the delegate, as he noted that his legislation, the Northern Mariana Islands Economic Expansion Act, or

previously H.R. 339, based the provision barring construction workers from using the CW-1 program on data obtained from the Government Accountability Office.

"...It was expected that the Act's exclusion of new construction workers from the CW-1 program would ensure that most CW-1 workers, who were lawfully present and employed prior to the construction surge in fiscal year 2016, would be protected in fiscal year 2018," Sablan wrote.

He cited GAO reports that claimed there were 9,715 CW-1 workers employed by local businesses in the CNMI that were not construction workers, and that this number was "less than the numerical limit of 9,998 announced by USCIS for fiscal year 2018."

Sablan claimed USCIS was issuing rejection notices to workers who have been "capped out," which Sablan said included healthcare professionals, accountants, teachers, power plant operators, hotel and restaurant staff, tour operators, and "many others employed by long-time, local businesses that are the backbone of the Marianas economy."

"Some employers are already preparing to either cut back operations or close down. Many of the companies employ U.S. workers as well, who could now lose their jobs," he said, adding that a possible explanation was that companies submitted petitions for "hundreds or even thousands of non-construction CW-1 workers for fiscal year 2018."

Sablan further stated that in some cases, jobs attached to a CW-1 permit might not have actually existed or that the companies lacked the sufficient resources to sustain their workforce, or, worse, the company is not even legitimate.

## Art-in-the-Park at the AMP

In March and April, the American Memorial Park is partnering with artists and organizations to provide free art classes to the community under the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Art-in-the-Park series. All ages are welcome.

There will be banana painting with Joy Rankin Santos on March 10, from 9am to 12pm.

The Carolinian Affairs Office will teach beading on March 24, from 9am to 12pm.

Kimberly Mendiola will teach watercolor painting on

April 7, from 9am to 12pm.

At the end of the art sessions, on April 21, artwork will be displayed at the Visitor Center for the National Park Week. Space is limited so register soon! To register for a class, visit the American Memorial Park Visitor Center. The center is open daily from 9am to 5pm. For questions contact ranger Brooke Nevitt or education specialist Jovanna Mafnas at 234-7207x2020 or email brooke\_nevitt@nps.gov. *(NPS)*



**MARCH 16, 2018 (7:00 pm - 10:00 pm)**

### Family Movie Night

(FREE entry) Free non-alcoholic drinks, popcorn & cotton candy.

**MARCH 17, 2018 (7:00 pm - 10:00 pm)**

### Open Air Local Music Concert on Golf Course for Live Music Night with Mango Sessions

Special Guest: Local Dance Group Studio 29:11 • (FREE entry) Free non-alcoholic drinks.

**MARCH 17, 2018 (10:00 pm - 2:00 am)**

### Birthday Party at Casino with Mango Sessions and \$5,000 giveaway at midnight! With hourly draw for cash & prizes.

**MARCH 24, 2018 (10:00 am - 2:00 pm)**

### Invitational Golf Tournament & BBQ



Location: Next to Middle Road McDonald's, Chalan Laulau • Reservation hotline: 670 234 8718



## ON VOTING RIGHT ISSUE

### Justices place certified questions under advisement

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court placed under advisement on Friday two certified questions that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Attorney General Edward Manibusan filed before the CNMI Supreme Court pertaining to an appeal on voting right ruling.

Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and Associate Justices John A. Manglona and Perry B. Inos said a written decision is forthcoming.

Attorney Gil Birnrich argued for Torres, while deputy attorney general Lillian Tenorio argued for Manibusan. Both the governor and Manibusan were not in the courtroom.

Torres and Manibusan raised the question whether the attorney general may decline to appeal an adverse judgment despite the wishes of the governor or a client government agency.

The two officials also asked whether the governor or client agency may hire, without the attorney general's prior approval, an outside lawyer to prosecute the appeal.

Torres wrote a letter last July 4 to the U.S. Supreme Court's clerk of court to rebut Manibusan's letter that says the petition that Torres and

the Commonwealth Election Commission filed about the voting right issue before the high court was unauthorized.

In the letter, Torres asked U.S. Supreme Court's clerk of court Scott Harris to disregard Manibusan's "attempt to cast doubt" on the petition for certiorari, since he and the other petitioners endorse, approve and authorize it in full.

A lawyer provided *Saipan Tribune* a copy of the governor's letter in response to a news article about the U.S. Supreme Court's denial of the petition that Torres, CEC, and its officials filed.

The petition seeks a re-examination of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit's decision affirming U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona's ruling that voters who are not of Northern Marianas descent must be able to vote on Article 12 initiative and any other initiatives to amend Article 12.

The U.S. Supreme Court's Office of the Clerk informed

the 9th Circuit that the petition filed by Torres, CEC, and CEC officials has been denied.

Attorney Joseph Horey, who represents the Northern Marianas Descent Corp., filed the petition on behalf of Torres, CEC, and CEC officials.

In Manibusan's letter dated June 20, 2017, he informed the U.S. Supreme Court's clerk of court that such filing was unauthorized.

Manibusan pointed out that none of the petitioners—Torres, CEC, and CEC officials—have the authority to file the petition.

But in his July 4 letter, Torres informed Harris that he, CEC and CEC officials authorized Horey to file the petition.

Last Nov. 14, the CNMI high court accepted the parties' certified questions and set a briefing schedule.

Birnrich said the AG may not unilaterally decline to appeal an adverse judgment against the wishes of its clients when the clients, the governor or government agency, desire to prosecute the appeal.

**5G** Backhoe, Dump Truck, & Construction Equipment **FOR RENT**

For inquiries, please call  
**285-0478 • 234-8678**

• Security Services • Heavy Equipment Rental  
• General Help Supply Services • Auto & Heavy Equipment Repair Shop

**ARMATECH**

Electric Motor Rewinding Services and Maintenance

Tel: (670) 234-8895 • Fax: (670) 234-8894  
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

**Fabulous SAIPAN VEGAS**

The Best Gaming Club in Saipan is pleased to announce the February **RED PACKET** promotion in celebration of *Chinese New Year*

With over \$11,000 in lucky red packets to be won in our DAILY player draws, with over \$7,000 in cash prizes including two \$2,500 lucky winners.

Come celebrate the Year of the Dog at Saipan Vegas!  
**You could be the next big winner!**

Watch out for our special Valentine's day promotion at Saipan Vegas Resort!

**Location: Middle Road (next to McDonald's) • 24 hours a day • 7 days a week**

**KEVIN'S**  
The Prime Rib & Seafood

**Lobster Lovers**

*Because Kevin's has so much more to offer than just Prime Rib...*

Throughout the month of March, Kevin's will feature an extra special Lobster Lovers Menu, perfect for the Lenten Season!

For more information and reservations, please contact us at: +1 (670) 322-1234 or <http://www.aquareosrtsaipan.com>

**APC AQUA RESORT CLUB**



# New kennel eyed by end of 2018

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office hopes to complete the construction of its new animal shelter by the end of 2018.

The mayor's office has al-

ready started soliciting bids for the construction of the new kennel that would be about 5,550 square feet.

The original kennel in Lower Base was destroyed in 2015 as a result of Typhoon Soudelor and the building was con-

demned after the typhoon.

Since then, the Dog Control Program has been housing stray dogs in a temporary shelter in As Perdido.

After Soudelor, the mayor's office received a \$361,406.38 grant from the Federal Emer-

gency Management Agency to build a new animal shelter.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang's special assistant, Henry Hofschneider, said a complete design and architectural plan is required to be ready for review by Apatang before bids could be solicited.

The completion of the design and architectural plan

took a little over three months, as estimated, and the Saipan Mayor's Office was able to hold a pre-bid conference on Feb. 22, which has seven potential bidders.

According to information obtained from the Saipan Mayor's Office, the bid proposals must be in on or before March 7.

Apatang hopes the new kennel will be built by the end of 2018.

The new shelter will be built on a portion of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources' As Perdido property and will be approximately 5,550 square feet, nearly the same size as the old shelter that was destroyed.

## DPL stopped from awarding exclusive quarry permit

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands has been stopped from awarding an exclusive quarry permit on public land in As Matus until such time that the judge rules on the merits of a losing bidder's complaint.

The losing bidder, USA Fanter Corp. Ltd., was directed to provide a security bond to pay for damages that DPL may suffer if it is found to have been wrongfully enjoined. The bond's amount was not stated.

In granting USA Fanter's petition for preliminary injunction on Friday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho said that DPL did not specify the amount of damage it may suffer so there will be a hearing to set an appropriate amount.

USA Fanter is asking the court stop DPL from awarding any contract on the quarry,

saying it has not been given the same opportunity to negotiate as Win Win Way and Blue Oasis.

USA Fanter requested the court to issue an injunction preventing DPL from awarding the exclusive quarry permit for the land until such time that DPL and Fanter have determined they cannot come to a contract.

Torres stated in the complaint that prior to Aug. 12, 2016, DPL issued an RFP titled "Quarry Operator on Public Lands-Lot Number 011 C 02—As Matus, Saipan." The lot has an area of 50,000 square meters.

Torres said Fanter, which already has a quarry in Kannat Tabla, responded to the RFP on Sept. 16, 2016.

DPL informed Fanter that its proposal was not selected on Nov. 9, 2016.

Torres said, DPL initially selected the proposal submitted by Win Win Way Con-

struction Co. and issued a notice of intent to award to Win Win Way on Nov. 9, 2016.

In granting USA Fanter's petition for preliminary injunction, Camacho said DPL issued a second RFP without an established procedure to cancel the first RFP.

Camacho said DPL negotiated with Win Win Way and sent a non-award letter to the unsuccessful bidders, including Blue Oasis and USA Fanter, but later entered into negotiations with only Blue Oasis.

Camacho said this unequal treatment of Blue Oasis and Fanter supports Fanter's allegation that DPL's actions are both subjective and arbitrary.

He said Fanter has shown that "their likelihood of success is more than negligible."

Camacho said if Fanter ultimately prevails on the merits in this case, the other awardee would have already removed limestone from the quarry site,

and the litigation between Fanter and the other awardee would likely drag on, denying business opportunities to them both.

More important, the judge noted, these delays would reduce rents and royalties for people of Northern Marianas descent while Fanter and another awardee litigate who has the rights to the quarry—the court gives great weight to this loss of rent and royalties to people of NMD.

Camacho said the potential for protracted additional litigation would also reduce public confidence in DPL's bidding procedure.

Thus, he said, there is irreparable harm if an exclusive quarry permit is issued before this case is decided.

Camacho said the public interest is served in ensuring that DPL is not acting arbitrarily or capriciously in handling RFP bids.

He said potential litigation between Fanter and another awardee over rights to the quar-

ry would endanger rents and royalties from the quarry, thus impacting people of NMD.

Camacho said DPL's argument that an award to Fanter would be a below-market-rate contract is an unsupported exaggeration.

He said the DPL secretary is required to negotiate fairly

with bidders in the interest of people of NMD.

He said Fanter is only asking for the opportunity to negotiate with DPL, just as Blue Oasis already has.

Camacho said nothing in this order will require DPL to negotiate a below-market-rate contract.

## FUEL

From Page 1

"They are saying that Guam is a lot cheaper than here, so that is a reason why the Korean market declined a bit here," he added. "They are only suspending though, for the summer schedule, but they are planning to [resume flights] for the winter schedule, which is [the] end of October," he said, adding that Jin Air is keeping its office on Saipan, which Camacho said is a "good sign."

This statement was CPA's response to Barcinas, when he asked the agency about their plans to retain existing airlines in the Marianas.

CPA board member Barry Toves, who also responded to Barcinas, said the Saipan airport is capable of providing airline services and that his committee, the CPA board committee for airline facilities, would discuss as well look into the matter.

The Marianas Visitors Au-

thority last Feb. 26, indicated in a press release a drop in Korean arrivals in January 2018 of about 7 percent compared to January 2017.

"We want to find out first if it's a business decision... or whatnot because we want to be able to address whatever challenges we have," said Toves.

After the meeting, Barcinas told *Saipan Tribune* that he suggested to CPA to "look at other routes" for the tourism industry to prosper.

"We [should] look at other routes so that we could avoid what happened to the Japan market," he said, referring to Delta Air Lines' plan to end the Narita-Saipan route.

"We need to look at other routes such as Korea or China so that we can maintain the level of tourism and the income we are getting from these sources," he said, adding that the CNMI government needs to be proactive.

The Delta pullout would be effective this May 6.

## EX-COP

From Page 1

ji and Yoshiko Sato.

During his probation, Seman is prohibited from having any contact with the victims, their homes, and restaurants.

He is to write a letter of apology to the victims, pay a \$100 fine, complete 80 hours of community service, and attend antidrug counseling.

Seman apologized to the victims, his family, and community, saying he is deeply ashamed of his actions.

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio heard the case.

Seman pleaded guilty to two counts of burglary last May 9.

Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas earlier recommended a sentence of six years imprisonment and five years of probation.

She said Seman's actions show a complete disregard for the laws of the CNMI wherein he broke into not one business but two.

Seman burglarized Coco's Restaurant on Dec. 7, 2016, and stole \$2,083 worth of liquor, food, cash, and a camera with accessories. Less than a week later, on Dec. 11, 2016, Seman burglarized Avenue Restaurant and stole \$4,462 worth of liquor, a computer, clothing, jewelry, and a couple of brand-name purses.

Barcinas noted that Seman is no stranger to the criminal

justice system as he has a prior criminal conviction in 2011, where he pleaded guilty to assault and battery.

Seman, who was at that time a rookie police officer, beat up his wife. Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo sentenced him in that case to 12 days in prison, with credit for 12 days of time served.

In the 2011 case, Seman was placed on probation for two years, but the pre-sentence investigation report revealed he did not comply with all the terms and conditions of his probation.

Barcinas said this indicates that Seman is a poor candidate for probation and/or rehabilitation.

"A strong sentence will promote deterrence and lessen the fears of many citizens who hope for change, and who demand for stiffer sentences, and most especially with repeat offenders," Barcinas said.

Assistant public defender Heather M. Zona, counsel for Seman, recommended a sentence of one year, two months and six days in prison, with credit for one year, two months, and six days of time served.

Zona said Seman is not a career criminal and has only made some poor choices.

Zona said the defendant feels great remorse for his wrongdoing, is embarrassed by his actions, and fears what a prison sentence could mean for his family.

## CHCC

From Page 1

He credits the Commonwealth Ports Authority and U.S. Customs and Border Protection for giving the program space at the airport.

"It is the first in the region other than the state of Hawaii and we have this site before Guam," he said.

The office will be CHCC's Public Health Information Center and used for isolation and quarantine if a potential passenger threat coming in has symptoms of any disease

that may be emerging in the region," he said.

"We are ready 24 hours as the program is on standby at all levels of threats and response that deals with health. It will be manned by trained preparedness staff," he added.

Villagomez said that PHEPP works closely with the Marianas Visitors Authority and get migration updates from the Centers for Disease Control.

"We understand that Asian countries have big and frequent travelers. ...The [information] we get from our partners, from government and non-government

organizations, are very critical for us to determine our approaches," he said.

Villagomez points out that the PHEPP health office at the airport does not entertain regular emergencies.

"It's not for a regular emergency, as the airport has prepared personnel to cover those scenarios," he said.

"We have doctors on call, 24/7 at CHCC and if there is a situation at the airport, we now have a facility that is ready to administer services as the health office is a satellite coordination site and we should be proud. We are badged so

we have access to the airport and our staff and doctors will be ready to respond when it's needed," he added.

Villagomez said that plans to have similar offices on Tinian and Rota are in the pipeline.

"The Saipan International Airport gets all the direct flights and the amount of flights from Asian countries are on Saipan. We plan to put up the same offices on Tinian and Rota eventually, especially when charter flights on the two islands start to pour in. We say that this is a must as our airports are in the frontline," he said.

## DETENTION

From Page 1

39-year-old Cabrera, an ex-convict.

Steven Pixley served as court-appointed counsel for the 39-year-old Repeki, a poker arcade security guard.

The complaint charged Cabrera and Repeki with conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine or "ice." They are right now detained at the Department of Corrections in Susupe.

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agents and CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force and Customs officers arrested Cabrera and Repeki on Sunday and searched their alleged laboratories in a room at the Saipan Vegas Resort and Repeki's house in Dandan.

The defendants were taken before the Superior Court on Monday on charges of illegal possession of a controlled sub-

stance arising from the same alleged laboratory operations. Judge Kenneth L. Govendo imposed a \$50,000 cash bail each on Cabrera and Repeki and set the preliminary hearing for March 5 at 1:30pm.

The U.S. Marshals served the two with arrest warrants yesterday in connection with separate charges filed in federal court.

According to DEA special agent Kirk F. Johns, their investigation began last Oct. 15 when a pharmacy employee tipped him to the purchasing patterns of some people of cold medicine containing pseudo-ephedrine.

Johns said he also received a call from a tipster last Oct. 16 that people led by Cabrera were cooking "ice" on Saipan by using the "shake and bake" method.

Investigators said that Cabrera and Repeki both claimed purchasing over-the-counter cold medicine because they have sinus problems.



# Torres, MVA meet with Japan market stakeholders

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, and the Marianas Visitors Authority management and board of directors met Monday with about 20 stakeholders of the CNMI's Japan market to reaffirm the Commonwealth's commitment to the islands' oldest market.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide Japan stakeholders in the CNMI with some updates about the Commonwealth government's discussions with interested airlines in Tokyo. He declined to divulge details of those discussions, citing nondisclosure agreements, but assured "we are cognizant of our community's concerns, and we are prioritizing the needs for an airline to service Japan and to revitalize the market."

The meeting was attended by Japan Consul Kinji Shinoda, JTB Pacific Micronesia Tours general manager Masaru Sunaga, DFS Japan sales manager Kazu Koyama, PDI president and chairman of Japan Saipan Travel Association Masa Takahashi, and several Japanese businesses and tour agencies.

"It is important to have our local stakeholders and partners involved in our process of finding viable airlines to service our Japan market. The Marianas tourism industry was built by Japanese investment over 40 years ago, and our histories and cultures remain intertwined," MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion said.

"The [Torres] administration, MVA, and the Legislature all agree that we will be making this market a high priority in the months ahead, particularly with the pullout of Delta Air Lines in May. I met with MVA and [the Commonwealth Ports Authority] last week to discuss ways to ensure airlift from Japan continues, whether through Delta or other airlines. We are making great strides in those talks, and we will be updating the community soon. Whatever resources we have will be prioritized for the Japanese market," Torres said.

"The MVA thanks Gov. Torres and Lt. Gov. Hocog for their steadfast support of the Japan market. Their pledge to utilize all available resources at their disposal to revitalize this key market is welcome news for all stakeholders. This is what the market needs to hear. The MVA is in aggressive talks with airlines wishing to fly from Japan to the CNMI, and we will not rest until we secure new service. This is at the forefront of our efforts at this time," Concepcion added. *(Saipan Tribune)*




## QUALITY PRE-OWNED

<b>2015 NISSAN FRONTIER SV</b> Stock#: Fn700804 Drivetrain: 4WD Engine: 4.0 Liter Transmission: Automatic Mileage: 25000 Color: Gun Metallic <b>\$26,995</b>	<b>2011 NISSAN FRONTIER CREW CAB SV</b> STOCK # BC400708 Drivetrain: RWD 4X2 Engine: 4.0 L 6 CYL Transmission: AUTO Est. Mileage: 91,460 Color: WHITE <b>\$16,995</b>	
<b>2013 KIA SPORTAGE LX 4D</b> STOCK # D7545684 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 4 L Transmission: 6 SPEED AUTO Est. Mileage: 60,782 Color: BLUE <b>\$12,995</b>	<b>2016 KIA SOUL LX</b> STOCK # G7360903 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 1.6 L 4 Transmission: AUTO Est. Mileage: 19188 Color: BLUE <b>\$13,995</b>	<b>2010 NISSAN MAXIMA SV SPORT</b> STOCK # AC802050 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 3.5 LTR 6CYL Transmission: AUTO Est. Mileage: 70988 Color: SILVER <b>\$14,995</b>
<b>2013 KIA SPORTAGE EX</b> STOCK # D7485868 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 2.4 L DOHC Transmission: 6 SPEED AUTO Est. Mileage: 39,182 Color: BLUE <b>\$16,995</b>	<b>2015 KIA SPORTAGE LX</b> STOCK # F7733218 Drivetrain: AWD Engine: 2.4L Transmission: AUTO Est. Mileage: 34744 Color: WHITE <b>\$16,995</b>	<b>2016 KIA SOUL</b> STOCK # G7384823 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 2.0 LTR DOHC Transmission: Automatic Est. Mileage: 36970 Color: RED/BLACK <b>\$17,995</b>
<b>2016 KIA SOUL EX</b> STOCK # G7313155 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 2.0 L DOHC 16 valves Transmission: Automatic Est. Mileage: 23540 Color: BLUE/WHITE <b>\$18,995</b>	<b>2016 KIA SOUL EX</b> STOCK # G7379546 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 2.0 LTR DOHC Transmission: Automatic Est. Mileage: 22,050 MILES Color: BLUE/WHITE <b>\$18,995</b>	<b>2012 NISSAN XTERRA S</b> STOCK # CC527339 Drivetrain: 4WD Engine: 4.0 Liter Transmission: Automatic Est. Mileage: 41328 Color: Brilliant Silver <b>\$18,995</b>
<b>2015 NISSAN QUEST S</b> STOCK # F9123375 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 3.5L V6 DOHC Transmission: Automatic Est. Mileage: 18425 Color: White <b>\$20,995</b>	<b>2015 NISSAN QUEST S</b> STOCK # F9126212 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 3.5 Liter Transmission: Automatic Est. Mileage: 17320 Color: White <b>\$20,995</b>	<b>2016 KIA SPORTAGE EX</b> STOCK # G7840712 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 2.4 Liter Transmission: Automatic Est. Mileage: 19778 Color: Black <b>\$21,795</b>
<b>2014 NISSAN MAXIMA SV</b> STOCK # EC434607 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 3.5 LTR 6-CYL Transmission: Automatic Est. Mileage: 25,775 Color: WHITE <b>\$22,995</b>	<b>2017 HONDA ACCORD SPORT</b> STOCK # HA051245 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 2.4L 4-cyl Transmission: AUTO Est. Mileage: 7,150 Color: BLACK <b>\$25,995</b>	<b>2016 NISSAN MAXIMA SV</b> STOCK # GC407956 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 24 valve 3.5L V-6 Transmission: AUTO Est. Mileage: 1,898 Color: DEEP BLUE PEARL <b>\$38,995</b>

## JOETEN CUSTOMER CHECKLIST



**Jay Cabrera**  
Sales Consultant  
Visit or call  
**234-5562**



Check out our full used car listing at  
[www.joetenmotorssaipan.com](http://www.joetenmotorssaipan.com) or visit us today



**SHOWROOM HOURS:** MON. – FRI. 8 AM – 6 PM • SAT. 8 AM – 12 NOON  
 TEL. (670) 234-5562

See dealer for details regarding the Joeten customer checklist.  
 Some conditions apply.





## Quichochos directed to answer questions about their assets

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The federal court has ordered Ramon K. Quichocho and his wife, Frances, to respond to questions about their assets to determine how they can pay the \$2.6 million judgment to businesswoman Jung Ja Kim.

At a hearing last Thursday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered the Quichochos to file their responses to the questions by March 26, 2018.

Robert T. Torres, the lawyer for Kim, said Friday that

he would send the fact information sheets containing the questions to the Quichochos.

The Quichochos, who are in Washington State, appeared at the hearing by telephone.

Torres had insisted that the couple appear in person at the hearing but Quichocho said they could not afford to buy plane tickets for Saipan and asked to be allowed to appear by phone.

Manglona said she is going to give at least one try for the Quichochos to appear by telephone and, if Torres is concerned about it, then “someone’s going to fly somewhere.”

In an interview, Torres said

the hearing was on their motion for an order in aid of judgment that they filed in 2015 against the couple and Quichocho’s then-law office.

Soon after the filing of the motion, the Quichochos filed for bankruptcy.

Torres said Kim prosecuted an adverse complaint before the bankruptcy court.

The bankruptcy judge, however, denied the discharge of the \$2.6-million judgment and maintained it as a continuing debt.

With the judgment still owing, Torres said they are now seeking an order in aid of

judgment.

Attorney Michael Dotts withdrew on Thursday as counsel for the Quichochos. The court granted the motion.

Torres said they will provide the Quichochos the questionnaire about their assets and resources. Once the responses are filed, Torres said they will seek a hearing for the Quichochos to appear in person and answer questions on their ability to pay.

Based on that hearing, the lawyer said they will see what assets the Quichochos have to satisfy the judgment awarded to Kim.

U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Brian D. Lynch agreed with Kim’s claim that certain debts arising out of a judgment Kim obtained against the Quichocho couple in the District Court are non-dischargeable.

Lynch declared as non-dischargeable the Quichocho couple’s \$2,606,661 debt to Kim.

Not dischargeable means that even if the Quichochos filed for bankruptcy, they will still owe Kim this debt.

Lynch ruled that the Quichocho couple’s debts to Kim under the U.S. District Court judgment relating to three Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act claims in the original amount of \$387,791.15 are non-dischargeable.

The judge also declared that the Quichocho couple’s debts to Kim under the same District Court judgment for conversion of the Tan Dingo LLC and Latte Stone LLC in the original amount of \$2,218,870 are non-dischargeable.

Because of the bankruptcy filing, in May 2015, U.S. District Court for the NMI Senior Judge Alex R. Munson suspended the proceedings pertaining to Kim’s motion for an order in aid of judgment.

That racketeering lawsuit eventually ended up in March 2014 with the federal jury holding the Quichocho couple liable to pay \$2.4 million in damages to Kim.

The court later awarded Kim \$387,791.15 for her damages, costs, and attorney’s fees.

## Public comments sought for OVR state plan

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation in partnership with the State Rehabilitation Council invites the public to share comments regarding the updates/modifications to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act’s Office Vocational Rehabilitation services portion of the 2016-2020

unified state plan.

The CNMI OVR is providing an opportunity for public comment on, and input into, the updates/modification prior to its submission to the U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Education-Rehabilitation Services Administration. The modi-

fied plan can be viewed at the OVR website, [ovrgov.net](http://ovrgov.net), and electronic copies can also be emailed upon request.

All comments regarding the plan should be submitted:

via email to: [nmdir@ovr.gov.net](mailto:nmdir@ovr.gov.net)

Subject: State Plan Public Comments

or mailed to: Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Attn: USP Coordinator

P.O. Box 501521

Saipan, MP 96950

or faxed to (670) 322-6548

To ensure comments are considered, they must be received no later than 4:30pm on March 8, 2018. Contact Elvira Seman with requests for alternate formats at 322-6537/8. **(PR)**

## SuperStar Virgo to sail high seas in summer cruise

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

*SuperStar Virgo*, a cruise organized by international hotel chain Resorts World Manila and dubbed by World Travel Awards as “Asia’s Leading Cruise Line,” will be sailing the high seas again from March 5 to March 10, setting off from Manila with stopovers in Japan and Taiwan.

*SuperStar Virgo* summer cruises from Manila will provide a scenic journey to the

popular tourist hotspots of Naha and Ishigaki in Japan and the vibrant port city of Keelung in Taiwan.

Perfect for the summer holidays, *SuperStar Virgo*’s five-night and six-day cruise will also allow travelers to embark on a new adventure with no visas required.

In addition to the port calls, guests on board *SuperStar Virgo* can look forward to setting sail in style and luxury, with deluxe accommodations, sumptuous daily meals, spec-

tacular entertainment, a range of recreational facilities.

The *SuperStar Virgo* comes equipped with 935 cabins, including sea-view cabins and balcony suites.

The 13-story cruise offers a wide variety of dining, shopping and entertainment choices; Chinese, international, and Japanese restaurants; an al fresco bar, foot reflexology salon and spa, gym, steam and sauna rooms, hairdressing salon, two-level theatre, duty-free shops, a 100-meter mega

water slide, outdoor swimming pool, mini golf course, karaoke room, children’s activity center, and more.

As a pioneer in the Asian cruise industry, Star Cruises continues to strive to deliver specially designed, quality itineraries to appeal to a broad range of guests.

*Saipan Tribune* has been invited to participate in *Super Star Virgo*’s summertime cruise.

For additional information on the cruise, contact marketing executive Lynch Imbat at [imbat@gentingcruiselines.com](mailto:imbat@gentingcruiselines.com).

## Power interruption on March 3

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Saturday, March 3, 2018, from 7am to 12pm to allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to replace three 55-foot concrete poles with three 45-foot concrete poles along Chalan Pale Arnold Road in San Roque.

The pole replacement task is part of a working requirement that involves the replacement of a certain quantity of 55-foot concrete poles that were temporarily used as replacement for 45-foot wooden poles damaged during Typhoon Soudelor.

The pole replacement projects that have been performed and will continue to take place until June 2018 is part of an ongoing Hazard Mitigation Project aimed at strengthening the power distribution system with the replacement of 787 wooden poles with concrete poles. At


the moment, 338 wooden poles have been replaced.

The power outage will affect San Roque and As Matuis, and also affect water wells MQ-1, MQ-5, MQ-8, MQ-9, MQ-10, MQ-13, MQ-14, MQ-15, and MQ-16.

Two wastewater lift stations—SR-land SR-2—will be affected, while water services to San Roque, Tanapag, and As Matuis will be interrupted during the power interruption; however, all services should be restored after the power is re-energized.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. **(CUC)**



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**


**Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality**

Division of Coastal Resources Management

P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315

[www.crm.gov.mp](http://www.crm.gov.mp)



**ELI D. CABRERA**  
Administrator

**JANICE E. CASTRO**  
Director

---

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

**DATE: February 28, 2018**

**NOTICE:** The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resource Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing and updating the CNMI Coastal Management Program's Approved List of Federal Actions Subject to Federal Consistency Review (List).

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan. States and territories are encouraged to specify federal actions that have reasonably foreseeable effects on coastal resources to facilitate coordination with federal agencies.

The program's current List only addresses Federal Licenses and Permits subject to review. This update proposes minor typographical edits and clarifications to the existing language and citations of this section as well as the addition of one new license listing under the Department of Energy—Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. In addition, this update proposes new Federal Activity listings for five agencies (Department of Defense, Department of the Interior — National Park Service, Department of Transportation — Federal Aviation Administration and Federal Highway Administration, and Department of the Homeland Security — Federal Emergency Management Agency) as well as three new Federal Financial Assistance listings (Department of Transportation — Federal Aviation Administration and Federal Highway Administration, and Department of Defense — US Army Corps of Engineers). The full text of the existing List and proposed change is available via DCRM's website at [www.crm.gov.mp/our-programs/permitting/federal-consistency/](http://www.crm.gov.mp/our-programs/permitting/federal-consistency/)

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.2. DCRM is soliciting public comments on the nature and scope of the proposed updates for fifteen (15) days, starting on February 28, 2018 and ending on March 14, 2018. Comments on the proposed updates can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at [FedCon@dcrm.gov.mp](mailto:FedCon@dcrm.gov.mp). We thank you for your input.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**


**Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality**

Division of Coastal Resources Management

P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315

[www.crm.gov.mp](http://www.crm.gov.mp)



**ELI D. CABRERA**  
Administrator

**JANICE E. CASTRO**  
Director

---

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

**DATE: February 28, 2018**


**NOTICE:** The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resource Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination request from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding the moratorium on harvesting deep-water gold corals in the U.S. Pacific Islands. The current moratorium, in place since 2008, is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2018. At the recommendation of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, NMFS proposes to extend the moratorium through June 30, 2023.

This extension would allow time for additional research on the growth rates, habitat specificity, and other characteristics of these corals that make them highly susceptible to overharvesting, as well as the development of other appropriate management options (such as Annual Catch Limits, Ecosystem Component designation, or a longer-term moratorium). More information on the proposed action can be found in Document 78 FR 18302 of the Federal Register.

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan.

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at [FedCon@dcrm.gov.mp](mailto:FedCon@dcrm.gov.mp).

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fifteen (15) days, starting on February 28, 2018 and ending on March 14, 2018 in order to give the public a sufficient opportunity to develop and provide comments on whether the proposed project is consistent with management program enforceable policies and still allow DCRM to issue its concurrence or objection within the sixty (60) day response period. We thank you for your input.




**Board of Trustees**

**Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation**

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



---

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9911, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation hereby gives notice that a Special meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the CEO's Conference 3 located at the Administrative Offices (new wing).

CHCC Board of Trustees Special Meeting  
Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

### AGENDA

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Determination of Quorum**
- III. **Review and Adoption of the Agenda**
- IV. **Executive Session: “To consult with Legal Counsel” pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912(a)(6).**
- V. **To vote and approve Applications for Privileges for the following individuals:**

New Applicants:

  - 1) Dr. Emma Bainbridge
  - 2) Dr. Marko Spasic

Renewal Applicants:

  - 1) Dr. Elizabeth Triche
  - 2) Dr. Dennis Williams
  - 3) Losana Rogoyawa, Midwife
- VI. **Adjournment**

---

P.O. Box 500409 CK, Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone: (670) 236-8201/2 FAX: (670) 23-8756



# More warning signs eyed on Forbidden Island

By **BEA CABRERA**  
bea\_cabrera@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority is looking at putting up "No Swimming" signs at Forbidden Island after yet another drowning incident over the weekend.

MVA managing director Chris Concepcion said the recent drowning at the Kagman spot is a big concern to the islands' tourism agency.

"We will look into installing more signs in addition to what's there now to provide visitors with rules and advice for Forbidden Island," he said.

## IT&E goes 'paperless' with billings

**HARMON, Guam**—IT&E has launched an initiative that encourages its customers to switch to online billing statements.

The company projects that customers will save \$3 every month on billing fees by choosing to eliminate paper statements.

A portion of the billing fees collected would be donated to local non-profit sustainability and/or recycling programs.

The company calls the new initiative "A Change that Matters," with the end goal of reducing paper waste and its negative impacts on the environment.

Customers can make a small change with global impact by switching to online billing statements. Going paperless also saves customers money and time.

"We believe that together we can make a small change that has a big impact," said Jim Oehlerking, IT&E chief executive officer. "Going paperless means less trash in our local landfill and less pollutants going into the earth, air and water. In Guam and the CNMI, land is tied to the hearts and culture of the people. We're proud to work alongside customers to preserve what matters most."

IT&E customers can access their latest statements and make a payment from any computer without having to stand in line.

To switch to e-statements, customers must first sign up for their security password, if they have not done so already, by visiting any IT&E store. Once the password is established, customers can then enroll in MyBilling eStatements.

For more information on how to go paperless, call IT&E at (Guam) 671-922-4483 / (CNMI) 670-682-4483. *(Saipan Tribune)*

Aside from travel advice, tips, and recommendation to all the visitors they bring there, tour guides should also tell their clients about the dangers of venturing out to perilous areas like Forbidden Island.

"We plan to work with all tour guides and operators to ensure visitors are educated and informed of all dangers at particular sites," said Concepcion.

The tricky part is related to free independent travelers, or FITs, who plan their own itinerary around Saipan based on travel books and recommendations from the internet and, in doing so, may fail to get inside information on what to do and not do in a particular destination.

"This is a bit tricky to handle because FITs have no guides with them when they tour the islands. All guidebooks, TV spots, and ads that MVA pays for provide tips for Forbidden Island and other popular sites," Concepcion said.

MVA could only do so much to warn this category of travelers since hiking to places like Forbidden Island is not against the law.



People say that there is a reason why this island is called Forbidden Island. "Educating our tourists on the do's and don'ts about the destinations on Saipan is on our list of priorities," said Chris Concepcion, managing director of Marianas Visitors Authority.

BEA CABRERA

"It is not illegal to go down to Forbidden [Island], so there is little we can do to prevent adventurers from hiking

down... MVA has been doing its part in promoting safe travels among our tourists as we pay for TV airtime 24 hours

a day, guidebooks printed in all source market languages, and signs at all sites needing them," Concepcion added.

## OPA ethics presentation to head to Rota, Tinian

The Office of the Public Auditor will be conducting ethics presentations on Rota and Tinian.

OPA staff will be on Rota on March 1, 2018, at the Northern Marianas College Rota Instructional Site,

Room A-1 and on Tinian, March 9, 2018, at the Northern Marianas College Tinian Instructional Site, Room D.

There will be a morning and afternoon session on each island at 10am and 2pm.

If an agency or group of

government employees are interested in the presentation, contact the Office of the Public Auditor at telephone number (670)322-6481/2.

While on Rota and Tinian, the staff of the OPA will be notarizing and accepting filings

of financial disclosure statements from government officials (appointed/elected commonwealth officials, boards, councils or task force members or directors, commissioners, executive directors including acting (in excess of 90 days), managing directors, deputy directors, administra-

tors, or similar position on your board, council, commission, task force or agency). All filers are reminded to bring with them some form of photo identification, such as a driver's license or a passport. Failure to do so may result in the denial of notary services. **(OPA)**

# How's Your Hearing?

*Specializing in:*

- Hearing Evaluations
- Custom fitted hearing aids
- Digital and Programmable Technology
- Custom Communication Devices

■ **Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> 8:30am - 4:00pm**  
*at Marianas Medical Center in Garapan*



**Ross  
Hearing  
Aids**

All interested patients should call  
Marianas Medical Clinic for scheduling  
**234-3925/7**  
Insurance accepted: AETNA and Medicaid



**Jennifer Ross, BC-HIS**  
*Board Certified in Hearing  
Instrument Sciences*  
Email: rosshearingaids@yahoo.com



# Tinian school names poetry contest winners

Tinian Elementary School’s students, teachers, PTSA officer, and administrators gathered in the school cafeteria last Friday, Feb. 23, and recognized the winners of the annual Valentine’s Day poetry contest from each class.

The contest was a one-week competition that lasted from Feb. 6 to Feb. 12.

The winners are: 1A, Amina

Hossain; 1B, Austin Muna; 2A, Galyug Untalan; 3A, John Sablan; 3B, Katie Lizama; 3B, Katie Lizama; 4B, Edmar Tirona; 5A, Stephanie Diaz; 5B, Maria Kaelonie Barcinas; 6A, Augustin Palacios; and 6B, Troy Cabarles.

Teachers from Kindergarten to 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade judged the best poems written by students from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes,

while teachers from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grades judged the best poems written by students from Kindergarten to Grade 3 classes.

There were 12 winners and each student was recognized and awarded a gift certificate for two scoops of ice cream and a bag of candy.

The Valentine’s Day poetry contest is an annual event at Tinian Elementary

School, scheduled by the English Language Acquisition Committee in an effort to increase students reading and writing skills, with Mrs. Safer coordinating the event annually and she had been donating the prizes for the students.

It is the committee’s hope that allowing the students to express themselves through different medium will boost the school’s reading and writing scores. **(PR)**

## Severe damage in Papua New Guinea hinders quake assessment

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand** (AP)—Severe damage to phone networks and roads from a powerful earthquake in Papua New Guinea was hindering efforts to assess the extent of the destruction Tuesday, although officials in the remote central region fear dozens of people may have been injured or killed.

The government had not confirmed any deaths after the magnitude-7.5 quake struck the Pacific nation’s central highlands region early Monday. Aftershocks were continuing to strike the area.

Hela Provincial Administrator William Bando told The Associated Press that phone networks were out, power lines were down and roads were blocked by landslides. He said the quake was a disaster on a scale he hasn’t experienced before.

“There are massive, massive disruptions,” Bando said.

He said he’d been hearing reports of dozens of deaths and injuries but couldn’t confirm them.

The National Disaster Centre said it was carrying out a rapid

assessment by ground and by helicopter in order to give information to the government.

Prime Minister Peter O’Neill said authorities were assessing the damage and getting ready to provide relief.

“There are communities that have suffered from this natural disaster, and we are sending our soldiers and other government agencies to support our people in their time of need,” O’Neill said in a statement.

The quake also disrupted work at oil and gas plants, mines and coffee plantations.

ExxonMobil Papua New Guinea shut down an airport it built as well as a gas conditioning plant, where there was damage to the administration buildings, living quarters and mess hall. The company was also evacuating nonessential workers.

Managing Director Andrew Barry said it was trying to re-establish communications with nearby communities to understand the broader impacts of the quake.

“We are deeply saddened by the damage this natural event has caused to the people in the

highlands provinces,” he said in a statement.

Aid agencies said they were ready to help but were also awaiting more information. Udaya Regmi, the country head of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, said it had 20 volunteers on standby but that getting accurate information remained difficult.

The quake hit about 89 kilometers (55 miles) southwest of Porgera, the site of a large gold mine that employs more than 2,500. Several aftershocks stronger than magnitude-5 struck the region, including a magnitude-6.3 early Tuesday.

The quake also caused panic and damaged buildings across the border in eastern Indonesia.

Papua New Guinea is home to 7 million people and is located on the eastern half of the island of New Guinea, to the east of Indonesia. It sits on the Pacific’s “Ring of Fire,” the arc of seismic faults around the Pacific Ocean where earthquakes and volcanoes are common.

## Hawaii rehab expert checks progress at HOPE Center

Hawaii-based consultant Wayne Law, who is program services manager for Mental Health Kokua, has praised the progress of the treatment services at the Hinemalu O’halia Para Enteramenti Recovery Center of the Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation Program.

“This program is a first for the CNMI. It is through the vision and heartfelt commitment and leadership of Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres that this tremendous program has been launched and is now in full swing. Much gratitude also goes to the Legislature for the appropriation of funds needed to fund the program,” Law said in a recent on-site visit to HOPE.

He also praised the Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation program for hiring competent staff who are working well with participants and residents in the group homes.

MHK, the oldest, private non-profit mental health organization in Hawaii providing housing, case management, homeless outreach, and psychiatry and counseling services for more than 1,600 people yearly, also provides guidance to the Commonwealth’s recovery center.

Law said the response from participants has been very encouraging, now that the doors of the center are open and receiving those who are engaged in recovery and reclaiming their lives from drug abuse and addiction.

“It is wonderful to see so much activity and life at the center and I’ve offered recommendations to further

strengthen the program as it continues to grow and expand services to accommodate those in our community who are in need,” Law said.

According to Yvette R. Sablan, Law

special assistant for Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation, Law’s visit was a success. She credits Law for the initial opening and ongoing efforts of the recovery center. He provided training to SAR personnel, including clinical and programmatic oversight to the crisis counseling program using his experience in the Pacific region.

Sablan said that Law was impressed with the progress made at the HOPE center since his last visit six months ago, from the full implementation of the Intensive Outpatient Treatment Program for members of the community seeking help, and those referred from the Drug Court and the Community Guidance Center to the expansion of the HOPE 24-hour Transitional Residential Group Home beds.

“We are very pleased with his assistance and we all look toward strengthening our services and building our capacity,” Sablan said.

To achieve this, she said, SAR has worked with stakeholders to implement the treatment support and life-skill activities necessary to prepare the participants for a positive transition as they reintegrate into the community and focus their efforts on their drug-free journey.



Torres said the center’s collaboration with regional mental health partners is critical to providing services based on best practices.

“The HOPE center is continuing to

grow and we’ve had a lot of positive feedback from the community and our healthcare partners. Mr. Law has provided us valuable insight with his over 40 years of experience in mental health services. His knowledge of integrated treatment and intervention has enabled our center to address our community needs in terms of substance abuse, crises counseling, case management, and continuity of care. We are grateful for his oversight and his unwavering dedication to mental healthcare and Pacific communities. I am very pleased to know that there is much more progress ahead for the recovery center and stand by my commitment to all those recovering in our community,” Torres said.

The HOPE Recovery Center employs intensive outpatient treatment, individual and group counseling, relapse prevention, treatment of co-occurring disorders, family therapy and education, supportive services, medication assisted treatment with after-care support from the Community Guidance Center.

HOPE services are free and the center is staffed 24 hours a day with participants from the general public.

For more information or help, call 323-7277/78. **(PR)**

## SCC now accepting scholarship applications

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is now accepting applications for its Educational Scholarship Fund.

The fund offers a one-time monetary award to deserving students in the following categories: high school scholarships, college scholarships, and vocational education scholarships.

A total of \$12,000 is awarded each June.

Hard copies of the Chamber scholarship applications are available at the Chamber office and can also be delivered to schools upon request. Applicants are encouraged to com-

plete the application which are due on or before 5pm on Friday, April 20, 2018, at its office in the Marianas Business Plaza, third floor, Suite 315.

The scholarships will be awarded at the Chamber’s monthly general membership meeting on June 6, 2018. Chamber scholarship applications are also available on the website, [www.saipanchamber.com](http://www.saipanchamber.com).

One of the Chamber’s goals is to promote and enable post-secondary education and to publicly acknowledge and reward the academic and extracurricular accomplishments of

deserving students.

“We recognize that the cost of postsecondary education is substantial. It is for this reason that the Saipan Chamber of Commerce continues the institution of our Educational Scholarship Fund,” the Chamber said in a statement.

For more information call the Chamber office at (670) 234-7150 or email [administrator@saipanchamber.com](mailto:administrator@saipanchamber.com).

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is the largest non-profit private business organization in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. **(PR)**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### APPLICATION FOR CNMI WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

The Antidegradation Policy of the Water Quality Standards of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands states that the protection and maintenance of the quality of the waters of the Commonwealth are an historic and legal right of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, and that this shall be the public policy of the Commonwealth. Any proposed activity that will impact the waters of the Commonwealth must receive a Water Quality Certification from the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ). In issuing a Water Quality Certification, BECQ must assure that the proposed activity complies with all applicable provisions of the CNMI Water Quality Standards and federal Clean Water Act, will not interfere with the attainment or maintenance of the existing or designated uses of the Commonwealth waters, and that all appropriate and practicable steps have been taken to minimize potential adverse impacts to aquatic life and human health.

Upon receiving an application, BECQ issues a public notification which describes the proposed activity and potential impacts on water quality, aquatic life and human health. A thirty (30) day public comment period will commence from the date of the first publication of the notice.

The Administrator of BECQ may conduct a public hearing to solicit comments on the application if a hearing is requested by the public. BECQ will make a determination for issuing a Water Quality Certification based upon a complete technical review of the application and the public comments received.

BECQ is soliciting comments on the following renewal application for a CNMI Water Quality Certification.

##### 1. APPLICANT:

Saipan World Resort  
Henry Hun Kim, General Manager  
PO Box 500066  
Saipan, MP 96950

##### 2. APPLICABLE STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

CNMI Commonwealth Environmental Protection Act (Public Law No. 3-23); CNMI Water Quality Standards, Chapter 65-130

##### 3. LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY:

Waterfront area in swim zone, Saipan World Resort

##### 4. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY:

Installation and operation of an “Aqua-Park” consisting of five types of inflatable marine recreational apparatuses described as (1) Super-tramp 23 (floating trampoline); (2) Universal (a hexagon-shaped apparatus for connection purposes); (3) Runway 20 (five floating connection paths); (4) Marine Rock Climbing Tube (a stand-alone, sturdy, flexible climbing apparatus); and (5) Marine Slide Tube (a stand-alone, sturdy, flexible slide apparatus). In addition to the apparatuses, a total of ten concrete anchors will be installed and maintained. Total benthic footprint of all anchors combined is 29 square feet. The Aqua Park will be situated immediate west of the resort within the Saipan Lagoon.

##### 5. IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED ACTION:

The project may have direct and cumulative impacts on seagrass and high value coastal resources in the Susupe lagoon.

##### 6. PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES:

Monitoring project will include scientific design, protocols, data collection processes, and other aspects to fully conform coastal management program goals and objectives. Elements will include water quality monitoring and marine biological community monitoring, as well as the attempt to document and design appropriate mitigation for any significant adverse impacts to the Saipan Lagoon’s environment.



# SALES DRIVE

## ENDS TODAY!

**\$0\***  
DOWN

**2.90%\***  
APR

**60\***  
MONTHS

**TACOMA MODELS**

Starting as low as

**\$26,199\***

Get up to

**\$2,000  
CASH BACK\***

on select models.



**COROLLA MODELS**

Starting as low as

**\$20,499\***

Get up to

**\$1,500 CASH BACK\***

on select models.



**RAV4 MODELS**

Starting as low as

**\$27,799\***

Get up to

**\$2,000 CASH BACK\***

on select models.



**YARIS MODELS**

Starting as low as

**\$16,999\***

**EVERYDAY LOW PRICE.**



\*Terms and conditions apply. On approved credit. See Dealer for more details. Models not exactly as shown. Offer valid on select units only. While supplies last.



**Atkins Kroll (Saipan), Inc.**  
#1 Chalan Msr Guerrero San Jose  
Saipan, MP 96950

**Call 234-5911**

Showroom Hours: Monday to Saturday 8am to 5 pm



**Let's  
Go  
Places**

**HERE FOR SAIPAN. HERE FOR LIFE.**

Browse our online showroom - Visit: [www.AKsaipan.com](http://www.AKsaipan.com)



# Opinion

Hafa Adair!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 41

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
jayvee\_vallejera@saipantribune.com

**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## The absurdity of teachers carrying guns

**H**ow long after teachers start coming to school armed for battle until a principal somewhere in America makes this embarrassing announcement over the PA system? Attention, a Glock 9 mm pistol with a 22-round magazine was left in the teacher's lounge—again. Will the owner please come to the office to retrieve it?

We jest, because the idea of allowing teachers and administrators to carry firearms in school is so absurd and irresponsible, it needs to be laughed off—quickly. Then the country can get back to reality-based discussions about how to better protect kids, and everyone else, by deterring mass shooters.

As we've written, there are steps to make it harder for a villain to obtain weapons, including background checks on every gun purchase. Schools can do more to protect themselves, too, by tightening security and holding more active shooter drills. But no, let's not get distracted by the fantasy that teachers should pack heat. President Donald Trump was in full fever on Friday suggesting that having a certain number of armed teachers on staff would have stopped the Feb. 14 massacre at a Florida high school. "A teacher would have shot the hell out of him before he even knew what happened," Trump imagined.

That's unlikely. There are tens of thousands of schools across the country. What are the chances of an armed, trained, literally-cool-under-fire social studies teacher taking down a gunman? The odds are much higher of an accidental discharge during study period, or a disturbed student disarming the teacher. Worse, we picture an angry teacher on a bad day pulling a gun on a student with an attitude. And if there were a shooter in the hallways? Given the chaos, terror and suddenness of an attack, chances are an armed teacher strikes a bystander, or gets shot mistakenly by law enforcement rather than disarming or disabling the bad guy.

Even contemplating this scenario presupposes that faculty members would enlist. We expect many would reject the idea of being armed. They wouldn't want the responsibility and see the folly. These are teachers, after all, who recognize the dystopian lesson: Kids, you live in a dangerous world you can never hope to improve through peaceful means. So let's lock and load.

Teachers and administrators do important work, as do police and other first responders. Let teachers educate children, and leave the protection of civilians to other professionals.

(c)2018 Chicago Tribune



## Trump keeps playing the same resentment card

**J**ust two months into 2018, President Donald Trump is beset with scandals. His White House is more dysfunctional than ever. He's used vulgar language to describe poor countries and faulted Barack Obama instead of Vladimir Putin for Russian meddling in the 2016 election. And he's continued to lie about pretty much everything.

Yet his standing with the public hasn't suffered a bit. His job-approval ratings actually rose a little.

The conventional explanation ascribes this to a strong economy and the growing popularity of Republican tax cuts. But the economy has been solid since the last few years of Obama's presidency. And while the marketing campaign extolling the tax cuts has had success, the final verdict will depend on how the cuts affect voters, not what they are told.

Trump's bulletproofing has less to do with transitory events than with his continuing ability to shape the terms of public debate. He reneged on an immigration deal, yet was able to shift the blame to Democrats. When credibly accused of cheating on his wife with a porn star, he just denies or diverts. With no conscience and few principles, he panders to paranoia.

When he succeeds, it's by playing on the same resentments that got him elected: the anger of those voters who were already convinced that "elites," Washington politicians, academics, the media and Wall Street don't care about them.

The question is whether that kind of success is sustainable. I don't think so. Trump's job-approval rating remains historically bad. In November, the Democrats will probably win control of the House of Representatives, giving them power to investigate an ethically bankrupt administration. Special counsel Robert Mueller's investigators have put to rest any doubt that Russian operatives tried to help Trump win the election.

But Trump's political support is likely to erode only gradually. Republican politicians are mostly sticking with him whatever their reservations, fearful of his unforgiving base. They see what happened to Arizona Senator Jeff Flake, a principled conservative who spoke out against Trump and thereby wrote his political obituary. Tennessee Senator Bob Corker, who announced his retirement in September after criticizing Trump, is now reconsidering and deciding whether to grovel for Trump's blessing.

For interest groups focused predominantly on a conservative judiciary, or on big tax cuts, or on an immigration crackdown, being pro-Trump is smart. Even for much of the religious right, access and money beats professed values.

The Trump rank-and-file supports a lot of the same agenda. Trump has shown a savvy ability to create shrewd diversions. It's a safe bet, for example, that few of the West Virginia min-

**By ALBERT R. HUNT**  
Bloomberg View

*Albert R. Hunt is a Bloomberg View columnist. He was the executive editor of Bloomberg News, before which he was a reporter, bureau chief and executive Washington editor at the Wall Street Journal.*



ers who applaud his defense of coal realize that the Republican tax cuts are heavily tilted to corporations and the rich. Or that the administration is now proposing to cut back Medicare and Medicaid, which provide a lot of the money to treat their state's profusion of opioid addicts.

On Russian interference in the presidential election, Trump creates alternative narratives. Sometimes he blames Obama, or supposedly left-leaning officials at the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Sometimes he turns to sycophantic surrogates like Representative Devin Nunes, chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, to help cook up conspiracy theories.

His followers accept the diversionary tactics even when they see through them. To them, the particulars don't matter as much as the sentiment: He's standing up for us and sticking it to the elites. Democrats complain about the mangling of facts but haven't succeeded in offering persuasive counter-narratives—the same failure that helped doom Hillary Clinton's presidential run.

News organizations often play the role of unwitting Trump ally. A study of online campaign coverage by the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University concluded last summer that "the right-wing media ecosystem," especially Breitbart News and Fox News, were able to force mainstream outlets to report on their favored narratives. They pounced, for example, on controversies over the Clinton Foundation, fueled by a book by a Breitbart editor, producing coverage in the New York Times and elsewhere.

These outlets are small compared to the mainstream media, but they relentlessly pursue Trump's agenda and are eager to echo his complaints about the FBI and to try to discredit sources of potentially harmful information like the British expert who compiled a dossier on Trump's business ties to Russia. Their perspective often makes its way into the mainstream media in the name of balance, a journalistic habit the ideological media eschews. "We don't get hung up on fairness," the right-wing activist Grover Norquist likes to say.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Hafa Kuaresma?

**G**uaha `nai huhuñgog man-afaisen tautau-ta haf` kume-ke ilegña “kuaresma”. I kinempendet-ta pot penitensia. Todu pot todut ta utut haf` yata pot sakrifisiu.

Gi la anchu na signifikasion palabra gaige gi “Old English” na Lent pot spring season. Era, tiempun rininueba `nai tali`e man-manflores i troñku siha gi oriya-ta. Lau este na rininueba mas sattun `nai linala`ta espirituat ta ta`lun bumisita pot satbasion anti-ta mismu.

Gaige obligasion finana`gue gi dos saina. Uma`asegura na man-dotrina i famaguon gi entre semana yan ma-attende Misan Dameño kumu un` familia. Siempre un` finattun chatagmag u fan ina i luseru gi korason famaguonta ma`lag kumu sefiat na gaige i Saina giya siha mismu.

**Sahyan:** Pot chansa huli`e programan “Hestorian I Islata” ginen i bisinu. Sige hu akanteha haf` dichu sustansian i programa. Era ma-atisan kutturan Chamoru.

Mauleg na asunto siha manma-inklusu. Tat nuebu na materiat gi presentasion para guahu. Namanman na finu` Eñglis ni mapresenta.

Kuestion: Na ti liñguahe i dichu sahyan kuttura? Pues haf` taimanu na finu` Eñglis `nai mapresenta i programa? Na ti mas propiu yangin dichu finu` Chamoru i presentasion? Lastima!

I ma-abiban kuttura debi u mau`udai gi finu` Chamorro. Estague` klaru na sahyan pisun kuttura. Yangin otu liñguahe unna` setbe pues tai bali haf` un` petsisige sa` ma`tut lamayot patte desde tutuhun. Muñga na dispues para tafafama appliñ na finu` Chamorro, “JB, don’t play in” de katan guma for de kareta come and chiniget hau, hekua` tihutuñgu”. Dios mihu!

Dispues hu ega` bailan Chamoru gi hechuran “chant” gi kantun tasi. Animu i famaguon mañganta. Lau anog na mangai problema gi pronunsiasion dichu palabra.

Sumasauna, “...mauleg para tatatamu”, era “tatautau-mu”. Kumu mohon guaha pinasensia ginen maestro ya ha korihe i famaguon mas bonitu siempre bailan niha. Na` guaha tiempu fumanague famaguon ni dinanche na finu` tanu`.

**Estudiu:** `An hu totpe palabra `sino konseptu ni taya` gi liñguahita, hu rikonose diksionariun Eñglis yan Español para bai komprende manu na palabra gi sentensian definasion pumula` i asunto. Lokue`, presisu na bai taitai fina` estudiu piot gi bandan konseptu pot klaru na kinemprende.

## My first black heroes didn’t wear capes

**T**he “Black Panther” got me thinking: Black heroes aren’t that hard to find.

For me, they were the men and women of my childhood who taught my math, history, science and Sunday school classes, those who knocked down the walls of segregated police and fire departments; and those who scaled the ladders of injustice in business, sports and politics.

They were the historic figures slighted in the textbooks of our freshly integrated schools: Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, Sojourner Truth, Dr. Charles Drew, James Baldwin, Ralph Ellison, Crispus Attucks, Mary McLeod Bethune, Paul Robeson, Harriet Tubman, Paul Cuffee, Benjamin Banneker, Ida B. Wells...

The list could fill the rest of this space and then some.

There were, however, no black “superheroes” projected on TV and movie screens, despite the likes of mighty men and women of sports—Jack Johnson, Jesse Owens, Jackie Robinson, Joe Louis, Wilma Rudolph, Jackie “Fritz” Pollard, Althea Gibson.

Our on-screen heroes always had more subdued, less fantastic obligations: They had to survive Act 1, Scene 1.

They had to shatter the stereotypical step-and-fetch-it, shuck-in’ and jivin’ depictions that kept the world in the dark about our intellectual, moral and physical abilities. Asians, Native Americans and Latinos can make the same claim.

The first black actor who made me stand up and cheer was Sidney Poitier. His elegant, dignified presence—both on and off the screen—gave me a sense of self, an identity to which I could relate and aspire.

His cape, if you will, was his mind, poise and masterful command of proper English. To this day, I tell anyone who asks that the best compliment I got as a boy was when a middle-aged white executive struck up a conversation with me while I was

Ya maseha hu komprende dispues definasioña debi bai akan-teha pumula` esta`i komprendiyun na finu` Chamorro. Diberas, kase pot todut nasion kumefunas kuttura yan liñguahita mina` sumen popble i finu` Chamorro.

Pot ihemplo: haf` kumeke ilegña “republican form of government?” Ahe` ti pattidan republican. Lau pot tres ramas gobietnu gi papa` un` payu: eksekatibu, lehislatura yan kotte. Estague` sustansian este na konseptu.

**Relihion:** Umasoda`yu` yan un` pairen Jehovah ni kume konbinse-yu` pot relihioña. Hu pasensiaye pot tautau. Sige hu dagau asuntog-hu gi lachagu`. Dispues hu tutuhun humala halum tali-hu. Hu saulag haye yuus niha, si Sodom pat Gomorrah? Lalalu` ni kuestion-hu. Era, cha`ut niha este na kuestion.

Ilegña lokue` na mauleg-gue` gi finu` biblia. Hu faisen haf` signifikasioña i kuarenta dias na uchan. Ilegña na dilubiu i tanu` ya megai manmatai. Hu sañgane na i fino`ña pot haf` masusede lau tiha oppe kuestionhu haf` signifikasion i masusede. Lalalu` ya ha dispachan maisague`. Dimoñu!

Pa`gu` an iya hululu` na puestu un` apupunta, haf` planumu para un` adelanta monedan familia pot ayudu gi ha`anen niha? Gi pa`gugu ha` inipus na gastu mafafana` gi kahulu` apas kanded, gastun neñkanu`, gaselina yan apas hospitat. Manu gi halum este na attikulu para un` petsige yan taimanu para choguemu?

**Miseraple:** Megai gi halum tautau-ta mampos man-inaminasa ni appenas adelantun moneda gi fuetsan familia mamahan nesessidat. `Nos kuantos man-suette mientras mayotmente man-ensinahyau gi halum miseraple na estau.

Guaha `nai in` atan este yan kau propiu i machandan mayotmente ni hagas man-ñgaha` ayudu? Haf` na man-malefa hamyu na mantautau ha` lokue` i los prohimu?

Maseha silensiu mayot patte gi publiku, hoñgeyu` na masentuñgu` haf` asuntun niha ya siempre hamyu para in` eppi pa`gu na botasion. `An gueku inepemmu, pues gueku lokue` na sappotasion un` finatoigie. Finu` un` amku`, “One pay de odda” gi este na biradan batkun sine`su`. Dios mihu!

**Kustumbre:** Lamegai bisinun mame Refalawasch ni su-

waxing the floor of the business where he worked.

I was still in high school, and I worked jobs before and after class from the time I turned 12. This was one of those jobs—sweeping, mopping and waxing floors at businesses after they closed for the night.

So this guy asks me, “Where are you from—where were you born?”

“I’m from here,” I told him, “the United States. I was born in East Texas, where I still live.”

Astonished, he said, “You have an excellent command of the King’s language.”

A black kid can never forget a statement like that. It’s both a compliment and a jab.

Often, when well-meaning white acquaintances made a comment like that—something along the lines of “You don’t sound black”—I would blurt out: “Well, how many black people do you know?”

The reality, then and now, is that the perception of black Americans—and black people across the globe—is rooted in stereotypes and the marginalization that comes with racist, caste entertainment, educational and economic systems that favor one group over another.

In that kind of world, black superheroes can only exist on the down-low. They can’t fly through an urban village—without getting shot or arrested—with an “S” on their chest and a comfy, highfalutin side gig at The Daily Planet.

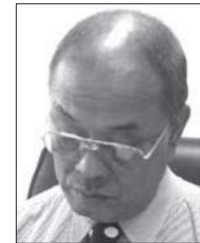
At least not without somebody saying, “Hey, what’s up with that Clark Kent? He was late for our morning meeting again. (Ahem) And where does he get all of those nice suits?”

The “Black Panther” film breaks the mold. It creates a world in which a black superhero, his gifts and gadgets notwithstand-

**By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.*



medeyu` umeyag yan kumonfitma haf` kutturan este na patte gi haga`hu. Yangin unu ha` kutturamu pues suetteyu` sa` dos masimientu gi halum tatautau-hu.

Gi todut atmos banda metgot i respetu yan sensian komunida kontodu inana`en kinisechan gualu` yan kineni` tasi. Este na kustumbre gaige gi todut komunidan tautau isla gi enteru iya Pasifiku. Konfitmau na patte gi haga` tautau isla mina` libianu ina`ayuda piot gi tiempun eskases!

Metgot antes inetnun natibu piot gi che`chu` komunida tat kumu preparasion gupot patron. Todut bisinu lokue` mañaunau `nai memetgot guihe na tiempu kustumbren fandaño. Makom-patte i che`chu` desde muñgayu, mahatsan fandañgeru, kusina, man-hotnu, peska yan mapunu` ga`ga` siha.

I pueñgen komplimentu (magutus uttimu finihu`) i tutuhun gupot fandaño. Ai na selebrasion gi sigiente dia. Duru i fina` baila desde ilotis ni sumen bibu na kilulog yan chalistun. Dispues de todut `nai hu komprende haf` kumeke ilegña fandang. Guiya este `nai kontodu i mento` bulachu iluña `nai dispues todut bali!

**Kanai:** `Nai tanores-yu` antes, sessu hu soda` gi taftaf chatagmag un` amku` ni umusune mamokat para i Guma` Yuus. Bes enkuando, hu huñgog estoriaña pot antigu na komunidan mañai-na-ta `sino soñgsoñ natibu antes de gera. Kontodu preparasion neñkanu` yan tikan niyog, areglun fandango yan usun kanastran mama` ha estoriaye-yu`.

Un` oga`an ha apagatyu` i biha, “Thu, faisen i Saina ni kanaiña ya un` pinipet”. Kada ratu hu huñgog ayu na fino`ña i amku`. Utimoña hu faisen i Saina ni ayuduña. Magahet na mas klaru fan atan-hu ya maseha haf` na chinatsaga hu totpe menos problema-hu. Suanu na finu` amku`.

**By JAMES RAGLAND**

The Dallas Morning News

*James Ragland is a columnist for the Dallas Morning News. Readers may email him at jragland@dallasnews.com.*



ing, can just be himself.

“It’s a little like witnessing the unveiling of an enormous statue on the public square—with the public square being the world—of Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and Nelson Mandela dressed in bright dashikis,” former NBA great Kareem Abdul-Jabbar wrote in The Hollywood Reporter.

This may sound nitpicky, but I agree with another point Abdul-Jabbar made about the movie.

“One misstep is the hand-to-hand combat that anoints T’Challa the Black Panther and king of Wakanda,” he wrote. “While physical prowess is necessary for an action hero, it is not the main attribute of a king. I would have preferred to see a challenge that involved a combination of intelligence, wisdom and athleticism over just brawling. The fight undercuts the logic of Wakanda being so technologically advanced.”

What I found most encouraging is that the movie left my own biracial children with the distinct impression that if a “superhero” is called to save the day, he—or she—could actually look like a Sidney Poitier or a Shirley Chisholm.

And no one would be surprised, even if we can’t get our hands on any Vibranium.

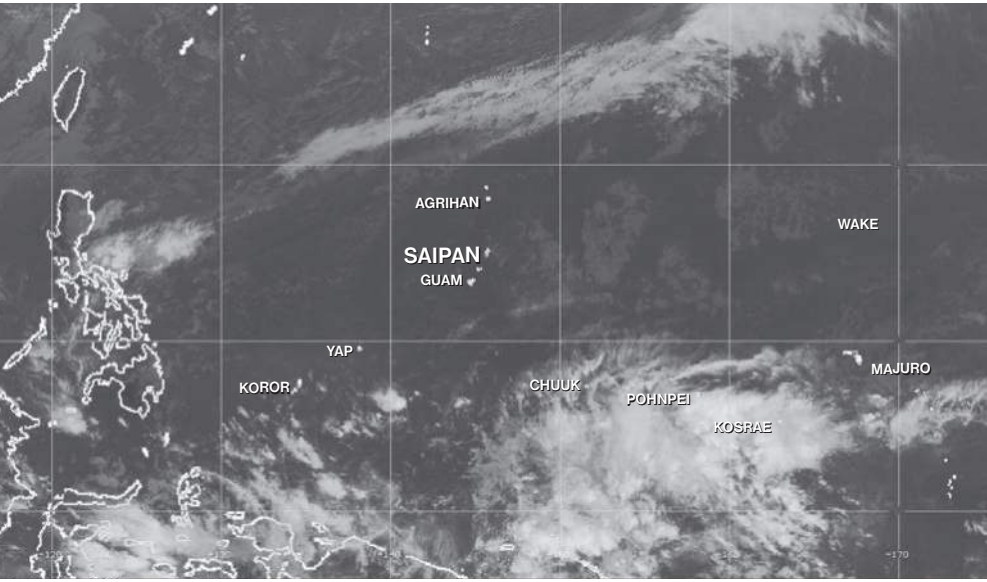


# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



**PICTURE TIME: 6:15 AM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2018**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A fairly dry pattern is on tap for the next week or so. Latest model runs vary slightly on rainfall amounts, however, all of the models are indicating less than half an inch of rainfall over the next 10 days. This will do a lot to increase the fire danger across the islands over the next week or 2. The KBDI has slowly risen over the last couple days to 698 and will likely continue to rise over the next couple weeks. As winds are forecast to increase a bit late in the week along with dry conditions, a fire weather watch remains a possibility for the last half of the week and possibly into the weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°	
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	83° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	83° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Rain	73° / 66°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	48° / 25°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	72° / 68°	
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	81° / 72°	
London	Partly Cloudy	34° / 27°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	62° / 46°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	93° / 77°	
Melbourne	Cloudy	68° / 55°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	81° / 70°	
New York	Mostly Cloudy	58° / 42°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	57° / 41°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	34° / 27°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	55° / 46°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	45° / 34°	
Salem	Showers	73° / 65°	
San Francisco	Cloudy	53° / 46°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	37° / 19°	
Tokyo	Rain	66° / 43°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	64° / 48°	

### NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:12 AM	HIGH TIDE	-0.41	
7:10 AM	LOW TIDE	1.94	
12:43 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.02	
5:51 PM	LOW TIDE	2.00	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:35 AM	6:24 PM
Thursday	6:34 AM	6:24 PM
Friday	6:33 AM	6:24 PM
Saturday	6:33 AM	6:25 PM
Sunday	6:32 AM	6:25 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:49 am	4:40 pm
Thursday	-	5:43 am	5:42 pm
Friday	-	6:34 am	6:41 pm
Saturday	-	7:21 am	7:38 pm
Sunday	-	8:06 am	8:33 pm

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: [sales@saipantribune.com](mailto:sales@saipantribune.com)

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017				
DEPARTURES				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				
DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily	
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7	
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				
TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily	
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7	
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				
3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)				
JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1	
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4	
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN	
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM	
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM	
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM	
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4	
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7	
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily	
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily	
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota	
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily	
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily	
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				
UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6	
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN				
UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6	
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily	
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4	
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7	
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily	
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7	
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily	
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily	
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN				
JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4	
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7	
GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN				
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5	
BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN				
MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6	
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM	
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM	
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM	
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7	
U042	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7	
U042	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6	
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily

1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily



# Business

## Why Trump's effort to curb immigration could hurt US economy

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—America's 21st century job market increasingly demands high-tech skills and knowledge. Yet consider this: Nearly half the new jobs the government foresees emerging by 2026 will require only a high school diploma—or none at all.

Those jobs share something else in common, too: Hundreds of thousands of them will likely be taken by low-skilled immigrants who are willing to do work that many Americans won't.

Lost in the immigration debate raging in Washington is the vital economic role played by immigrants who don't have the education, training or skills that the Trump administration and many Republicans in Congress say should be a pre-requisite. Economists say that especially with unemployment at a 17-year low and the growth of the workforce slowing, immigrants—skilled as well as unskilled—are vital to the economy.

"The idea that we only need people with certain degrees—it's never been true in America, and it's less true now than it was in the past," said Michael Clemens, an economist and senior fellow at the Center for Global Development, a Washington think tank.

Sixty-three percent of current American jobs—and 46 percent of jobs expected to be created between 2016 and 2026—require no more than a high school degree, according to the Labor Department. The new positions include low-paying jobs that most native-born Americans are loath to pursue—an estimated 778,000 personal-care aides (me-



In this Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2018, photo, Amara Sumah, owner of Sumah's West African Restaurant, poses outside the restaurant in the Shaw neighborhood of Washington.

dian pay in 2016: \$21,920), 580,000 food-service workers (\$19,400), 431,000 home-health aides (\$22,600).

Many of those jobs, Clemens says, "will either be done by immigrants, or they will not be done at all."

Already, foreign-born workers—about 17 percent of the overall workforce—account for 52 percent of America's maids, 47 percent of roofers and 40 percent of construction laborers and laundry and dry-cleaning workers.

Low-skilled immigrants harvest sweet potatoes and cucumbers in fields in North Carolina. They serve demen-

tia patients in nursing homes. They vacuum offices. They are waiters, cooks and maids at President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida.

The Trump administration and many Republicans in Congress want to reduce the number of foreigners who can enter the United States and establish a merit system for those who do. They argue that restrictions on both legal and illegal immigration would protect Americans from potential criminals and from low-skilled immigrants who they say drive down wages for everyone.

Trump "understands what's broken in our immigration sys-

tem and what's holding down wages for American workers," Sen. Tom Cotton, an Arkansas Republican, has said. "I stand ready to work with him and my colleagues to build an immigration system that supports the American worker and boosts our economy."

The president's immigration plan, rejected along with similar measures by the Senate this month, would bar immigrants from sponsoring siblings, parents and adult children and end a visa lottery meant to increase diversity. It would also earmark \$25 billion for the construction of a border wall to keep Mexicans

and Central Americans from crossing illegally.

The administration has also endorsed legislation from Sens. Cotton and David Perdue of Georgia that would favor visa applicants who are well-educated, speak English well and meet other criteria designed to attract immigrants who possess high skills and weed out those who don't.

Yet the University of Pennsylvania's Penn Wharton Budget Model, which analyzes public policy proposals, has concluded that the Cotton-Perdue bill would reduce economic growth and eliminate 1.3 million jobs by 2027 and

### Immigration

Poll of 1,249 voters, Feb. 16-19

Do you support allowing undocumented immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children to remain and eventually apply for citizenship?

#### Support

80%

#### Oppose

16%

#### Don't know

4%

Margin of error: +/- 3.4 percentage points  
Source: Quinnipiac University  
Graphic: Tribune News Service

4.6 million by 2040.

Many immigrants say they are confident—or at least hopeful—it won't come to that.

"I'm optimistic," says Amara Sumah, an immigrant from Sierra Leone who owns a West African restaurant in Washington D.C. "The American people are generous. The president cannot change the country by himself."

The fear that immigrants will take the jobs of native-born workers is rooted in a time when most Americans were far less educated. Native- and foreign-born workers used to vie for low-skill jobs. Today's better-educated American-born workers are much less likely to compete with new arrivals with low skills. Twenty-five years ago, 46 percent of U.S. workers had no more than a high school degree. Only 28 percent had four-year college degrees; now, 40 percent do. Just 33 percent have only a high school diploma or less.

## NY pension leader sues Wynn Resorts' board after sex claims

**LAS VEGAS (AP)**—The board of directors of Las Vegas-based Wynn Resorts is facing mounting lawsuits from shareholders who allege they breached their fiduciary duties when they ignored what has been described as a longstanding pattern of sexual abuse and harassment by the company's founder, Steve Wynn.

The latest known "derivative lawsuit" filed in state court in Las Vegas against the board and the billionaire was announced Monday by the official in charge of the nation's third largest public pension fund, the New York State Common Retirement Fund.

At least four other shareholder groups have filed lawsuits stemming from sexual misconduct allegations leveled against Wynn in a news report last month. Derivative

lawsuits allow shareholders to take legal action on behalf of a company when they believe its officers or directors are not meeting their fiduciary duties.

"These board directors and officers were duty-bound to protect employees and the company, yet they failed to confront allegations of predatory behavior," Thomas DiNapoli, the New York state comptroller and trustee of that state's retirement fund, said in a statement. "We are asking the court to hold accountable the company officers and directors who allowed this behavior to go unchecked."

The allegations surfaced a month ago, when the Wall Street Journal reported that a number of women said Wynn harassed or assaulted them. One case led to a \$7.5 million settlement with a

manicurist who alleged that he pressured her into having sex during an appointment, according to the newspaper.

Wynn has vehemently denied the misconduct accusations and attributed them to a campaign led by his ex-wife. He resigned as chairman and CEO of the company bearing his name Feb. 6. An attorney for Elaine Wynn has denied that she instigated the news report.

San Diego-based attorney Todd Neal with the firm Procopio said the lawsuits serve two purposes: To pursue monetary damages—which would be the loss in share price that occurred as a result of the breaches of fiduciary duty—and to force compliance with processes to be implemented, as well as perhaps to have certain board members removed.

## Judge tosses lawsuit challenging federal marijuana laws

**NEW YORK (AP)**—A judge on Monday dismissed a lawsuit challenging federal laws criminalizing marijuana as unconstitutional, saying the five plaintiffs had failed to pursue changes in the drug's legal status by first going through the Drug Enforcement Administration.

U.S. District Judge Alvin Hellerstein did not address the plaintiffs' claim that marijuana has medical benefits, but said the DEA has the authority to make that decision and not the courts.

The plaintiffs included former NFL player Marvin Washington, the co-founder of a company that sells hemp-based sports products, Army veteran Jose Belen, who said the horrors of the Iraq War left him with post-traumatic stress disorder, and two young

children who use marijuana to treat medical conditions.

Michael Hiller, lead attorney for the plaintiffs, said they would appeal the decision.

"Resigning the plaintiffs to the petitioning administrative process is tantamount to a death sentence for those patients who need cannabis to live," said Hiller, who had earlier argued that the administrative process takes an average of nine years.

In a statement, Belen called the ruling disappointing, "but just the beginning."

"We are on the right side of history, and we will take this fight to the Supreme Court if necessary," Belen said.

Hellerstein earlier had evinced sympathy for the plaintiffs' claims that medical marijuana had helped them, but appeared to take the gov-

ernment's argument seriously that the plaintiffs should petition the DEA.

The suit originally was filed in July as a growing number of states broke with the federal government and declared marijuana to be legal. Thirty have now legalized it in some fashion, including six for recreational use.

The lawsuit challenged the listing of marijuana as a Schedule I drug, a category that includes heroin and LSD. The federal government says drugs under that classification have no accepted medical use and cannot legally be prescribed.

The plaintiffs had asked the court for a permanent injunction preventing the government from enforcing the Controlled Substances Act as it pertains to cannabis.



# Nation

## Trump says he's willing to buck NRA; Congress not so sure

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—President Donald Trump declared Monday he's willing to take on the National Rifle Association over gun legislation, but Republicans who control Congress aren't so sure. They prefer to consider only modest changes to firearms limits in response to the mass shooting at a Florida high school.

Congress returned to work Monday without following Trump's lead on any of the major initiatives he has tossed into the debate since the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Despite public calls for stricter gun laws, Republican leaders have largely kept quiet since the shooting, which left 17 dead and ushered in another phase in the gun debate, prompted in large part by the activism of the young survivors. Some students visited with lawmakers Monday.

Over the weekend, Trump spent time talking to Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, and the White House is inviting lawmakers from both parties for meetings this week. But Trump's ideas to arm many teachers, lift the minimum age for purchasing assault rifles to 21 and impose stricter background checks were falling flat.

"You guys, half of you are so afraid of the NRA," the president said Monday at a meeting with the nation's governors. "There's nothing to be afraid of. And you know what? If they're not with you, we have to fight them every once in a while. That's OK."

Instead, Senate Republicans are hoping to consider more modest legislation from Sens. John Cornyn, R-Texas, and Chris Murphy, D-Conn., to strengthen the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). The "Fix NICS" bill, similar to



**AP**  
President Donald Trump speaks during a meeting with the members of the National Governors Association in the State Dining Room of the White House, Monday, Feb. 26, 2018, in Washington.

one approved last year in the House, would penalize federal agencies that don't properly report required records used to determine whether someone

can legally buy a gun.

Cornyn, the Senate's No. 2 Republican, questioned Trump's proposal to raise the age limit for assault weapons,

noting that the minimum age to enlist in the military is 18.

"I'm not sure I understand the 21 age. I think there are better ways to address it than

just an arbitrary age increase," he told The Washington Times.

Trump insisted Monday that sometimes political leaders need to buck the NRA, which

builds its political power by major campaign spending and motivating gun rights supporters to vote. Though he did not mention increasing the minimum age for rifle purchases, he wants to toughen the Cornyn bill with stricter background checks, a change the NRA has opposed.

"We're going to strengthen it," Trump said. "We're going to make it more pertinent to what we're discussing."

Democrats have long pressed for more sweeping changes toward a universal background check system, including requiring inquiries for online and gun show purchases.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York said Monday that if all Congress can accomplish is passage of the "Fix NICS" bill "it would be an abject failure and a dereliction of our duty."

Sens. Joe Manchin, D-W. Va., and Pat Toomey, R-Pa., are reviving their background check bill, which failed earlier, including after the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in 2012. Manchin said opponents at the time worried then-President Barack Obama would impose even stricter restrictions. "Well they're not having that fear right now with President Trump," he said.

At a minimum, Congress should approve universal background checks, Schumer said, denouncing "NRA-backed bills that make Republicans feel better without meaningfully addressing the issue of gun safety."

## Case against Florida shooting suspect returns to court

**PARKLAND, Fla. (AP)**—The criminal case against the gunman accused in the Florida high school shooting returns to court Tuesday with prosecutors seeking hair samples, fingerprints, DNA and photographs of the suspect.

Nikolas Cruz, who has been charged with 17 counts of murder, will not appear in court because he waived his right to attend the hearing. He is being held without bail at the Broward County Jail.

In a separate court matter, Cruz's lawyers are seeking to disqualify a judge from presiding over the case. The de-

fense says in court papers that Circuit Court Judge Elizabeth Scherer is biased in favor of prosecutors, threatening Cruz's right to a fair trial.

Cruz, who is 19, signed an affidavit in a barely legible printed scrawl that resembled the writing of a young child.

As the case moves through the courts, it has fueled a debate over gun control in the halls of the Florida Capitol in Tallahassee, hours from where the shooting took place at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland.

On Monday, a state Senate committee approved a

bill Monday to raise the age for buying a gun from 18 to 21 and imposing a three-day waiting period for all gun purchases. The bill would also allow teachers to carry guns in schools if their school district approves and the teachers undergo law enforcement training and are deputized by the local sheriff's office.

About 300 gun safety advocates packed the room and dozens pleaded with senators to include an assault weapons ban in the bill. That idea was rejected on a 6-7 vote.

Stoneman Douglas students Katherine Guerra and

Bela Urbina, both 15, stood together to argue for a ban on assault-style rifles.

"This weapon has killed so many people. It is a militarized weapon that we don't need. We don't need civilians to have it," Urbina said.

In reference to hunting, Guerra added, "Do you think that your sport is more important than human lives? And if you believe that, you need to reassess yourselves." The students received thunderous applause.

A similar House bill was going to be considered by a committee on Tuesday.

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The Supreme Court on Monday rejected the Trump administration's highly unusual bid to bypass a federal appeals court and get the justices to intervene in the fate of a program that protects hundreds of thousands of young immigrants from deportation.

The announcement means the case affecting "Dreamers" will have to work its way through the lower courts before any Supreme Court ruling is possible. The case could also become moot if Congress takes action in the meantime. Right now, however, efforts to address the issue in Congress have hit a stalemate.

The Supreme Court's deci-

## Supreme Court declines to decide fate of 'Dreamers' just yet

sion for now to stay out of the case on the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, wasn't surprising. It's highly unusual for the Supreme Court to hear a case before a lower appeals court has considered it.

But DACA supporters hailed the decision as a significant—if only temporary—win. Trump said the case would now be heard by an appeals court and "we'll see what happens from there."

"You know, we tried to get it moved quickly because we'd like to help DACA. I think everybody in this room

wants to help with DACA," he said to visiting governors. "But the Supreme Court just ruled that it has to go through the normal channels."

DACA has provided protection from deportation and work permits for about 800,000 young people who came to the U.S. as children and stayed illegally.

In September, Trump argued that President Barack Obama had exceeded his executive powers when he created the program. Trump announced he was ending the program effective March 5 and gave lawmakers until then to come up

with a legislative fix.

But in recent weeks, federal judges in San Francisco and New York have made Trump's deadline temporarily moot for people who have sought and been granted renewals; the rulings do not extend to people who are applying for the first time. Judges issued injunctions ordering the administration to keep DACA in place while courts consider legal challenges to Trump's termination. As a result, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services resumed accepting and processing DACA renewals in January, just as it had before Trump's September

announcement.

The Trump administration has not tried to block the injunctions that force it to continue operating the program. Though the March 5 date is now moot, Greisa Martinez, policy and advocacy director for United We Dream, said DACA supporters planned to demonstrate in Washington on that day in part to continue to pressure Congress to act.

The Senate two weeks ago blocked a bipartisan bill offering Dreamers potential citizenship and providing \$25 billion for President Donald Trump to build his proposed border wall

with Mexico. A more conservative House proposal that sharply reduces legal immigration and imposes other restrictions has languished short of the GOP votes it would need to pass, leaving its fate in question.

The Supreme Court's announcement Monday that it wouldn't step in to the case now means the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit will likely be the first appeals court to weigh in on the topic, the step before the case would return to the Supreme Court.

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, who joined other states in lawsuits to keep DACA in place, cheered the Supreme Court announcement Monday.



# Asia

## Specter of one-man rule looms as China lifts Xi's term limit

**BEIJING (AP)**—For some Chinese, their feelings about plans to lift term limits to allow President Xi Jinping to rule indefinitely can be represented best by a cuddly stuffed bear.

Social media users shared images of Winnie the Pooh hugging a jar of honey along with the quote, "Find the thing you love and stick with it."

The Disney bear's image has often been compared to Xi, prompting periodic blocks on the use of Pooh pictures online.

Other online commenters wrote, "Attention, the vehicle is reversing"—an automated announcement used by Chinese delivery vehicles—suggesting that China is returning to the era of former dictator Mao Zedong or even imperial rule.

Analysts say the ruling Chinese Communist Party's move to enable Xi to stay in power indefinitely will ensure some degree of political stability while also reviving the specter of a return to one-man rule.

In a sign of the leadership's sensitivities, Chinese censors moved quickly Monday to remove satirical online commentary about the development.

A day after the party announced a proposed constitutional amendment ending term limits, internet users found it difficult to signal approval or disapproval by changing their profiles. Key search topics



**AP**  
A pre-recorded greeting from Chinese President Xi Jinping is displayed on a screen during a ceremony to mark the arrival of the Olympic flag and start of the flag tour for the Winter Olympic Games Beijing 2022 at a section of the Great Wall of China on the outskirts of Beijing Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2018.

Zimmerman said.

Professor and political commentator Hu Xingdou said he doubted that Xi wants to be president-for-life, but there were concerns that China could "slide into a kind of fascism or personal dictatorship which will cause very serious consequences."

"Many consider this a lifetime tenure, but I think it will probably be extended to three or four terms. Maybe an unspoken agreement has been reached inside the Chinese Communist Party that one has to step down after three or four terms," Hu said.

Others pointed out that authoritarian rule without term limits often leads to abuses and severely complicates the succession process.

In the near term, "this move could actually increase stability, since there would presumably be less jockeying for power," said William Nee, an Amnesty International researcher on China. "In the long run, however, this will probably further complicate the perennial problem that authoritarian states confront in finding a way to peacefully and orderly transfer power."

such as "serve another term" were censored.

The rubber-stamp parliament, the National People's Congress, is all but certain to pass the amendment when it meets for its annual session early next month. Under the 1982 constitution, the president is limited to two five-year terms in office, but Xi—already China's most powerful leader since Mao—appears to want addi-

tional terms to see through his agenda of fighting corruption, eliminating poverty and transforming China into a modern leading nation by midcentury.

Or, some speculated, he may simply wish to retain near-absolute power for as long as possible.

"It is most likely that it will turn into a post of lifelong tenure," said Zhang Ming, a retired political scientist who

formerly taught at Beijing's Renmin University.

A retired Beijing railroad worker, who gave only his surname, Liu, said he approved of Xi's performance over his first five years in office and voiced no objection to the lifting of term limits.

"As the leader, he has done pretty well in terms of reform and economic growth," said Liu, 67. "In foreign policy, he also did a good job by taking tough positions in the face of provocations from the U.S."

Xi has made robust diplomacy and a muscular military posture in the South China Sea

and elsewhere a hallmark of his rule and more can be expected, experts said.

In terms of trade relations with the U.S., entrenched differences between the world's No. 1 and No. 2 economies will likely remain, said James Zimmerman, former chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in China.

"This announcement on the one hand potentially means continuity, predictability, and stability. But, on the other hand, it also means more of the same; namely, stalled market reforms and limitations on market access,"

## Indonesia brings convicted militants and victims together

**JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)**—The Indonesian government is bringing together dozens of convicted Islamic militants and survivors of attacks in what it hopes will be an important step in combating radicalism and fostering reconciliation.

About 120 reformed militants will apologize to dozens of victims including survivors of the 2002 Bali bombings and the 2004 bombing of the Australian Embassy in Jakarta, according to Irfan Idris, director of de-radicalization at Indonesia's counterterrorism agency.

The three days of meetings at a Jakarta hotel that began Monday aren't open to the media except for an event on the final day.

"Many militant convicts have changed and are taking the right course with us by drawing on their experience to prevent others from taking up violence," Idris told The Associated Press. "These facts have

inspired us to reconcile them with their victims."

Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation and third-biggest democracy, has imprisoned hundreds of Islamic militants in the years since the Bali bombings that killed more than 200 people, mostly foreigners.

But its efforts at convincing imprisoned militants to renounce violence have had mixed results. In overcrowded and understaffed prisons, militants have been able to convert other prisoners to radicalism and communicate with supporters on the outside to encourage new attacks that they believe will advance their cause of transforming Indonesia into an Islamic state.

At least 18 former militant prisoners have been involved in attacks in Indonesia since 2010, including a January 2016 suicide bombing and gun attack in downtown Ja-

karta that killed eight people, including the attackers.

Febby Firmansyah Isran, who suffered burns to 45 percent of his body from the 2003 bombing of the J.W. Marriot hotel in Jakarta, said to begin with he was so overwhelmed with anger that it worsened his health.

At the urging of his fiancée, now his wife, Isran, who is attending the meetings, said he accepted what happened to him as an act of God.

"I have forgiven them and it has even improved my recovery process and calmed me down," said Isran, who founded a support group for bombing victims. It now has 570 members, about 60 of whom suffer from total physical disability.

However, many victims have refused to participate in the government event because they can't forgive the attackers or are still traumatized and are afraid to meet with convicted radicals, he said.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Skorean prosecutors demand 30 years for ex-president Park

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**—Prosecutors have demanded a 30-year prison term for former South Korean President Park Geun-hye for alleged bribery, abuse of power and other crimes in a landmark corruption case that marked a stunning fall from grace for the country's first female leader. The Seoul Central District Court was expected later Tuesday to set the date when it will announce the verdict and sentence if she is convicted. If the court finds her guilty, Park would be the third South Korean president convicted of crimes. The others were former military generals involved in a 1979 coup and a 1980 civilian massacre. Park didn't attend the court session Tuesday. Following massive protests by millions and impeachment by lawmakers in December 2016, Park was formally removed from office and arrested in March last year.

#### Japan police find body parts in murder linked to US suspect

**TOKYO (AP)**—Japanese police said Monday they have found parts of a dismembered body believed to be of a missing woman in the mountains of western Japan, in a murder case reportedly linked to an American tourist. Hyogo prefectural police said investigators found a torso, arms and legs in three locations in parts of Kyoto and Osaka on Sunday. Police said the parts could be from the body of an unidentified woman who has been missing in the prefecture since mid-February. Local

media said the woman was a 27-year-old office worker from Sanda City. Police suggested that they searched the locations after being told about them by a suspect, but refused to elaborate. An examination of the body parts is being conducted to identify the victim, they said. Kyodo News service and other Japanese media reported that police arrested a 26-year-old New Yorker as a suspect, but police would not confirm that. The reports said police also found the severed head of a woman inside a suitcase at his lodging in Osaka.

#### UN development program names Pakistani a goodwill ambassador

**ISLAMABAD (AP)**—The United Nations development program has appointed the first Pakistani woman to climb Mount Everest as its goodwill ambassador for the country. A statement issued Monday says Samina Baig will lead efforts to build national awareness and partnerships around the U.N.'s development goals, particularly those related to climate change, environmental protection, youth and women's empowerment. Born in Gilgit-Baltistan, at the age of 22 Baig became the first Pakistani woman to climb storied mountain. By the time she turned 23, she had climbed the highest mountain on each of the world's seven continents. She heads the Pakistan Youth Outreach Foundation to encourage youth in outdoor activities. Neil Buhne, the U.N.'s resident coordinator in Pakistan, said Baig will use her position to shine a light on issues that shape Pakistan's future.



# World

## Migrants on stalled route hide in Greek city's ancient walls

**THESSALONIKI, Greece** (AP)—The stone walls that cut through the old quarter of Greece's second-largest city defended Thessaloniki for more than 2,000 years. For a 24-year-old Pakistani immigrant, parts of the remaining ramparts mean survival.

Muhammed Adeel and other homeless men sleep in the old reinforced gun positions. Filthy blankets, rolled-up mattresses and empty food packaging fill the protected chambers that once housed cannon.

"I came here with a dream, but I have nothing—no job, nowhere to live, nothing at all," Adeel said after a near-freezing night in a dome-shaped casemate.

The European Union struck a deal with Turkey nearly two years ago to halt the surge of asylum-seekers attempting the dangerous sea voyage from Turkey to the Greek islands, the most popular route to Europe at the time. The crackdown also left tens of thousands of newcomers confined to Greece's eastern islands or mainland camps during the long asylum application process.

Some desperate migrants, particularly those with slim chances of winning asylum, have turned to another route—heading overland through Turkey and wading across the heavily policed Evros River to neighboring Greece.

The land route's increasing appeal is clear. Greek police



In this Sunday, Jan. 14, 2018, Muhammad Adeel, 24, left, and another migrant from Pakistan find shelter inside an Ottoman Gun emplacement, built on the top of a Byzantine fortification, in the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki.

caught 1,072 people who had entered the country's Evros region illegally in October 2017, compared to 655 in the same month a year earlier.

Adeel was among those who slipped through the cracks. The young man said he paid smugglers \$2,500 to take him from Turkey to Thessaloniki, a trip that involved crossing the river and a six-hour ride hidden in the back of a truck.

His money and hope ran out in Thessaloniki, where des-

titute and homeless migrants number in the hundreds, afraid to seek help for fear of deportation. The vast majority hoped Greece was just a stepping-stone to more prosperous European countries. But when they got here they found the routes north into Europe closed off to keep them out.

With chances of successfully gaining asylum slim and jobs near impossible to find in a country where unemployment still runs at 21 percent, most get by in Greece as best

they can while waiting for a way to smuggle themselves onward.

"Everyone in Pakistan has a dream. And everyone who makes it to (Europe) comes with hope of achieving something, to do something for their parents," Adeel said.

Taking shelter in a tiny casemate built in medieval times and depending on food handouts from volunteers and charities is far from his dream. Adeel wants to make it to the economically stron-

ger heart of Europe, where he believes he has a better chance of landing a job.

"This is not a future," he said.

## Students too scared to return to Nigeria school after attack

**LAGOS, Nigeria** (AP)—Frightened students on Monday stayed away from the school in northern Nigeria where Boko Haram extremists seized 110 girls in a raid a week ago, while the military said it had handed over the town's security to police ahead of the attack because it was "relatively calm."

The mass abduction from the Government Girls Science and Technical College in Dapchi has reminded many of Boko Haram's kidnapping of 276 girls from a boarding school in Chibok in 2014.

Anger has been growing as the government struggles to respond to the latest attack. Teachers resumed classes a day after Nigeria's government for the first time acknowledged the number of girls missing, but students were absent.

"They are too frightened to go there. We parents are equally frightened to see our daughters go there," said Mohammed Mele, who has two children in the school. "Many other parents are not likely to send their children back," another parent, Mohammed Ibrahim, told The Associated Press.

The school will reopen when "frayed nerves cool down," Yobe state education commissioner Mohammed

Lamin said.

The fate of the 110 girls is not known, but witnesses have said the Islamic extremists specifically asked where the girls' school was located. Some witnesses reported seeing young women taken away at gunpoint. Information Minister Lai Mohammed said 906 students were in the school at the time.

The military rejected reports that its recent withdrawal from Dapchi caused the Boko Haram attack, but in a statement it confirmed having handed over security of the town to local police "on the premise that Dapchi has been relatively calm and peaceful." The military has not said when that handover occurred.

The Bring Back Our Girls movement that brought the Chibok mass abduction to world attention has embraced the cause of the Dapchi families, though with some astonishment that the tragedy has happened again. As the fourth anniversary of the Chibok kidnappings approaches, the movement says 112 of those schoolgirls are yet to be found.

"It is terribly EXHAUSTING but WE SHALL STAND. WE SHALL," one of the movement's organizers, Oby Ezekwili, said on Twitter of the Dapchi attack.

## Still no cease-fire in Syrian enclave; Russia orders a pause

**BEIRUT** (AP)—As a U.N. cease-fire failed to take hold in Syria, Russia on Monday ordered a daily "humanitarian pause" to allow civilians to evacuate an embattled rebel-held enclave near Damascus, while airstrikes continued and Syrian ground forces fought to push into the besieged area from the west.

But civilians caught in the violence mocked Russian President Vladimir Putin's order of a limited, five-hour daily truce.

"It is like legitimizing the strikes on civilians," said activist Firas Abdullah, a resident of Douma, a town in the region where at least 13 members of a family were killed Monday when their home collapsed after an airstrike.

"They will be so kind to grant us a mere five hours when they will not bomb us. Then the rest of the day, they will bomb us as usual. It is like a permission to kill," Abdullah said.

A weekend resolution approved by the U.N. Security

Council for a 30-day cease-fire across Syria failed to stop the carnage in the eastern Ghouta region that has killed more than 500 people since last week.

At least 34 people were killed Monday by airstrikes and shelling, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The U.N. estimates that nearly 400,000 people live in dire conditions from the siege in eastern Ghouta, which has been under intensive bombing by government forces for weeks.

Other Ghouta residents also scoffed at the Russian move, saying it reminded them of a similar one for a besieged eastern district of Aleppo in 2016.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said Putin has ordered daily "humanitarian pauses" between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., starting Tuesday.

Maj. Gen. Yuri Yevtushenko, head of the Russian military's Center for Reconciliation in Syria, said Syrian authorities set up a "humani-

tarian corridor" for evacuating civilians and would distribute leaflets with specific information. He said the al-Qaida-linked militants and some rebel groups in eastern Ghouta are preventing civilians from leaving and using them as human shields while continuing to shell Damascus.

The political leader of the Army of Islam, the strongest rebel group in eastern Ghouta, called the Russian order "regrettable," saying Moscow sought to circumvent the Security Council's unanimously approved resolution.

"This (Russian) decision nullifies the legitimacy of the United Nations," Mohammed Alloush of the Army of Islam told The Associated Press. "We want a total and lasting cease-fire in accordance with the U.N. resolution and one that opens corridors for humanitarian aid."

On Sunday, activists reported a suspected poison gas attack in eastern Ghouta's town

of Sheifouniyeh, where at least one person—an infant—was killed.

The attack also left several people and paramedics with breathing difficulties, according to the opposition's Syrian Civil Defense, a group known as the White Helmets. The Ghouta Media Center, an activist collective, also reported the incident, saying chlorine gas was used. The Observatory said it could not confirm the reports.

The Syrian American Medical Society, a medical relief organization working with doctors in Syria, said it was the fourth time this year that a chemical weapon was used in Ghouta. SAMS also said 24 health facilities in Ghouta came under attack over the last week.

Meanwhile, Syrian TV reported a three-pronged ground attack on Harasta, a major town in the region. The state TV broadcast live video from the town as it was pounded by airstrikes and artillery.



# Focus

## Early warning sign? More states consider animal abuser lists

By **MARY ESCH**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)**—Son of Sam, Ted Bundy, Jeffrey Dahmer and the Columbine High School shooters are among the infamous criminals who had a history of hurting animals before they went on to target humans, a tendency that's part of what's behind a movement to create public online registries of known animal abusers.

New York is among 11 states with animal abuse registry bills pending in their legislatures, following Tennessee, which started its in 2016 along with a growing number of municipalities in recent years, including New York City, and the counties that include Chicago and Tampa, Florida.

"Animal abuse is a bridge crime," said the sponsor of New York's bill, Republican state Sen. Jim Tedisco, who noted that Nikolas Cruz, accused of killing 17 people in the Parkland, Florida, high school shooting on Feb. 14, reportedly also had a history of shooting small animals.

While the main goal of collecting names of convicted animal abusers is to prevent them from being able to adopt or purchase other animals, registry backers say such lists could also be a way to raise red flags about people who may commit other violent crimes ranging from domestic violence to mass shootings. But some animal welfare advocates, mostly notably the



Before and after photos are shown Thursday April 7, 2016 of a boxer named Brewster cared for at the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) forensic unit, after he was dropped off last year by a good Samaritan who said he found the starving animal in a park, in New York. The ASPCA forensic veterinarians work with the New York Police Department to capture evidence and punish animal abusers.

ASPCA, question how effective they can really be.

Under registry laws, people convicted of felony animal cruelty are required to submit information to the registry and pay a maintenance fee. Failing to do so brings fines and jail time. Shelters and pet dealers in a county with a registry are required to check it and risk stiff fines for providing an animal to anyone listed. It's not difficult, since most registries have only a handful of

names and mug shots of cruelty crimes ranging from dog fighting to beating or starving a pet to death.

A high-profile animal cruelty case is often the impetus for passing a registry law. In Nassau County on New York's Long Island, it was the case of Miss Harper, a fawn-colored 7-month-old pit bull left earless and badly infected after the couple who bred her paid a friend to perform surgery he wasn't licensed to do.

The couple had previously been charged with cruelty for putting bleach on another puppy. Since their convictions predated the registry, they're free to buy and breed more dogs. Another loophole is the current scattershot nature of such registries. While neighboring Suffolk County on Long Island has a registry, along with 11 counties in upstate New York, many do not.

"There really needs to be a statewide law," said Gary

Rogers of the Nassau County Humane Society, which manages that county's registry established in 2014. "Otherwise, someone on our registry can just go to another county to get an animal."

Tedisco, who pushed through New York's felony animal cruelty law in 1999, said the Miss Harper case underscores the need for passage of his statewide registry law, which would also require convicted offenders to get

psychological evaluation and treatment.

Stephanie Bell, director of cruelty casework for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, said PETA is strongly in favor of animal abuser registries. But not all animal welfare groups agree.

"Given the limited scope, reach and utilization of animal abuse registries, it is unlikely they would have any significant impact on the incidence of animal cruelty," said Randall Lockwood, senior vice president of anti-cruelty projects for the ASPCA. The number of people who end up on registries is negligible, he said. Tennessee's has just 12.

Leighann Lassiter, of the Humane Society of the United States, said that while her organization agrees with the motivation behind registries, it's already possible to do a nationwide criminal background check on a potential pet adopter, which would reveal not only cruelty convictions, but also other violent crimes.

Instead, Lockwood said, communities should focus on strengthening anti-cruelty laws, using no-contact orders to prevent offenders from having contact with pets, livestock and wildlife, and expanding protective orders in domestic violence situations to include animals.

The other states considering registries are Hawaii, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Virginia and Washington.

## Some owners are destroying their guns after Florida shooting

By **LISA MARIE PANE**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**ATLANTA (AP)**—One man in upstate New York sawed his AR-15 rifle into pieces and posted a video of it on Facebook. A woman in Connecticut did the same with her handgun. Not far from scene of the Florida high school shooting, another man brought his assault weapon to police and asked them to destroy it.

In response to the killings of 17 people by a 19-year-old with an AR-15, some gun owners are waging personal protests against mass shootings.

The AR-15 is the gun drawing the most scorn during these public displays of destruction playing out on social media. Their owners say they love to shoot it, but enough is enough.

Scott Pappalardo is one such gun owner. Sitting in the back-

yard of his home in Scotchtown, New York, cradling the Eagle AR-15 rifle he'd owned for 30 years, Pappalardo called himself a firm believer in the Second Amendment who considers the rifle his favorite, but said he's pained by the steady drumbeat of mass shootings.

"Here we are, 17 more lives lost. So when do we change? When do we make laws that say maybe a weapon like this isn't acceptable in today's society?" he said in a video on his Facebook page. People blame mental illness, video games, bad parenting and other reasons, but he said "ultimately, it's a gun like this one that takes away the lives."

With that, he turned around and put a saw to his rifle, and posted the video with the hashtag #oneless, calling it "My drop in a very large bucket." That was Feb. 17,

and 5 days later, it had received more than 375,000 likes and been shared more than 425,000 times.

Pappalardo, a 50-year-old supplier of building materials, said it was a tough and personal decision to destroy the gun. He loved target shooting with it. He's been a gun owner for decades and even sports a fading tattoo on his arm showing a firearm with the words "the right to keep and bear arms."

"I literally love that gun. It was almost like taking my sick dog out in the backyard and putting it out of its misery. It was very personal for me," Pappalardo told The Associated Press. "And I said to my wife before I did it, I can't believe I'm about to go outside and cut up my gun. It wasn't an easy thing to do."

But he believes the AR-15 has become a weapon of

choice for too many mass shooters - used in Parkland, Las Vegas, the Orlando nightclub shooting, last year's Texas church massacre and other recent high-profile attacks - and he no longer wanted to be associated with it.

Despite the recent outrage, the AR-15 remains an incredibly popular weapon across America, and the people destroying them represent a small fraction of the gun's owners.

Chris Waltz, president and chief executive of AR15 Gun Owners of America, called these acts kneejerk reactions that wrongly blame the rifle. He laments that so many mass shooters have been using the AR-15 to carry out their carnage, even as handguns remain the weapon most used in mass shootings. His group has more than 550,000 Face-

book followers, adding 10,000 more in recent days.

"It's not a rifle problem. It's a societal problem," Waltz said. "We need to get a handle on what's going on that's causing these kids to do these things."

Destroying the weapon "makes no sense at all," he says.

"If you're a responsible gun owner and you purchased that weapon and you know you're not psychotic, then why would you ever do that?" he said. "It almost seems like it's political theater."

Ben Dickmann, who lives near Parkland, brought his AR-57, a variation of the AR-15, to Broward County sheriff with instructions to have it destroyed.

"I enjoyed shooting this rifle immensely but I don't need it, I have other types I can shoot for the same enjoyment," he wrote in a Facebook post

showing images of the firearm and an officer processing the paperwork to destroy it.

His post, like others using Facebook to publicly declare what gun owners have done, attracted thousands of comments that offer a glimpse into the nation's gun debate. Some accuse him of being a wimp or somehow deranged. Others praise him.

Amanda Meyer, who lives in New Haven, Connecticut, had a similar experience.

She grew up in Iowa and first learned to hunt at 14. Five years ago, she bought a Sig Sauer P229 handgun to target shoot and for self-defense. She had been thinking about getting rid of it for months, but was worried it could wind up in the wrong hands.

"After what happened in Florida, I just thought, this is ridiculous, I'm attaching myself to this inanimate object that its sole purpose is to kill humans," Meyer told the AP.



# Good Housekeeping

## Near-perfect Mysty, a hot commodity this spring



TNS

Mysty blue salvia looks to be the hottest plant at the garden center this spring.

By **NORMAN WINTER**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

*Norman Winter, horticulturist, garden speaker and author of, "Tough-as-Nails Flowers for the South" and "Captivating Combinations: Color and Style in the Garden." Follow him on Facebook @Norman-WinterTheGardenGuy.*

**M**ysty will be the hottest plant at the garden center this spring, and it's likely, everyone will want several. Mysty is the dazzling new compact salvia indigo spires that was the talk of all the trials last year. Most

trials score on a 1-5 scale, and Mysty was well over 4 at Young Plant Trials in Alabama, UGA Trials in Athens, Ga., and at the prestigious Penn State Trials, it was near perfect.

Gardeners crave this rare blue color in the long summer garden, and Mysty will be the perfect choice reaching 12 to 18-inches tall and as wide with blooming spikes creating excitement with color and texture. These spiky blooms will thrill as they shoot above that imaginary horizontal plane of the flower border.

The first Indigo Spires, our old-fashioned preserving perennial, was found growing in the Huntington Bo-



TNS

Mysty blue salvia will look great with yellow and orange for a complementary color scheme.

tanical Garden in the 1970s and was made available in 1979. John MacGregor, horticulturist at the California garden, described his lucky find as a "sterile hybrid courtesy of the bees."

One of my favorite horticultural websites says, "Indigo Spires tends to keep growing and growing and then falling over under its own weight. Constant pruning and pinching will keep it in bounds, and removing the flower spikes after most of the flowers have dropped off will encourage more blooming."

In 2006 Ball FloraPlant introduced Mystic Spires the first dwarf or compact Sal-

via Indigo Spires, and for 12 years it has remained one of the must-have plants in the garden, blooming all summer. Now Ball FloraPlant has done it again giving us an even tighter smaller growth habit that will not only be treasured in the garden, but that will make it the first selection of choice for mixed containers and those that might want to use it in monoculture.

If winter drainage is good, Mysty will be cold hardy through zone 7, like its predecessor. We usually think about drainage in the spring and summer and rightfully so, but it is even more critical in the winter for salvias. Wet winter feet spells doom for salvias, lantanas, and verbenas, but good winter drainage coupled with mulch will allow many plants to return in the spring far outside their hardiness zone.

Mysty comes from a cross of *Salvia farinacea* native to Texas and New Mexico and *Salvia longispicata*, also from Mexico, so they are very tough and drought tolerant. They perform best in full sun and once established in the bed; they exhibit drought tolerance and a rugged late summer perseverance. This is particularly true when a layer of mulch is added. However, if we have a prolonged dry spell, supplemental irrigation would be necessary. Please do not stick this stunning plant in tight, compacted clay soil.



TNS

Misty salvia is a new compact indigo spires, perfect for landscape and containers.

Mysty is the quintessential cottage garden flower and will create a photo moment when combined with other perennials like purple coneflowers, pink gaura, and summer phlox. They will look stunning when paired with gold or yellow plants like rudbeckia or gloriosa daisies, lantanas,

and Golden Lace patrinia for a complementary color scheme.

One more attribute, not only will the spiky blue flowers rise up creating dazzling color and excitement, but you will notice they will also be playing host to bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. You have to agree this is an outstanding plant.



TNS

Misty blue salvia is the quintessential cottage garden flower.

**The Garden Bug**

**Tool prep**

Get your tools ready for the coming year's work. Clean rust and stubborn dirt off all metal surfaces with a wire brush or steel wool. Wash items with warm soapy water, then rinse and dry completely. Recondition wooden handles by smoothing nicks and splinters with medium-grit sandpaper, and coat handles with boiled linseed oil to help prevent future splintering. - Brenda Weaver

Source: [www.hgtv.com](http://www.hgtv.com)



## Life & Style

# Hulu asks: 'Is it time to examine how 9/11 happened?'

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Not too long ago, Peter Sarsgaard felt he had to have a difficult conversation with his oldest daughter about 9/11.

He and Ramona, then 9, were in a car on the anniversary of the terror attacks and the twin light beams above ground zero were switched on. The girl declared them "pretty." That's when her dad realized he needed to explain what they were, right then and there. She's not alone.

"There is a whole generation of people that are in their late teens—that are 20 even, if they were 3 at the time—who I think need to start learning about this in some way," he said.

This month, Sarsgaard is doing that, teaching on a massive scale as one of the stars of "The Looming Tower," Hulu's powerful look at the events that led up to the al-Qaida-led 2001 attacks, a series that is as much a thriller as a geo-political education.

The 10-episode miniseries, adapted from Lawrence Wright's Pulitzer Prize-winning book of the same title, sent film crews to eight countries, including Morocco and South Africa. It signals Hulu's deepening effort to offer complex, interesting offerings following its success with "The Handmaid's Tale."

"The Looming Tower" starts in 1988 and charts key



figures in the CIA and FBI as they chase down clues—and often jostle each other—to uncover Osama bin Laden's plot and stop it. The series is brutal about the missed opportunities and rivalries between the agencies and doesn't flinch at showing violence to innocents, both at home and abroad.

"I wonder if because 17 years have past almost, whether we're ready for it now," said Jeff Daniels, who stars as hard-charging FBI agent John O'Neill. "Closer

to the actual attack of 9/11, no one wanted to hear if there was someone to blame. We knew who to blame—it was bin Laden and al-Qaida."

Sarsgaard, who plays a reptilian CIA anti-terrorism chief, knows all too well how

dangerous wading into the subject of 9/11 blame can be. His wife, Maggie Gyllenhaal, created a firestorm in 2005 when she suggested that U.S. foreign policy might have had some role in the attacks.

"The backlash was so mas-

sive—it was on CNN, it was on everywhere—we had to leave the country," said Sarsgaard. "Presumably enough time has passed now that we can start thinking about what went wrong, right?"

Dan Futterman, the se-

This image released by Hulu shows Jeff Daniels in a scene from "The Looming Tower," a 10-part series chronicling events leading to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

AP

ries' show runner who wrote teleplays for the first two episodes, said the 10-hour show tries to explain without judgment what motivates the three groups—CIA, FBI and al-Qaida—even portraying members of the terrorist group as human beings. "That may be the worst pushback we get," he said.

Wrenn Schmidt, who plays a workaholic and ambitious CIA analyst in a very male-centered organization, said she came out of the experience with enhanced respect for intelligence gatherers working in the shadows. But she appreciates the series' care for balance.

"The story's not trying to tip your favor with one person or one group," she said. "For better or for worse, all of those people think they're doing something right or doing something that is in service to a greater purpose."

## Q&A: A Weinstein Co. bankruptcy could complicate lawsuits

**NEW YORK (AP)**—A bankruptcy filing by The Weinstein Co. would be the latest episode in the unraveling of a Hollywood powerhouse and have repercussions for any lawsuits filed against the company over of allegations of sexual misconduct by its co-founder, Harvey Weinstein.

Here are some questions and answers about the possible bankruptcy filing and what it means for Weinstein's accusers:

### WHY IS THE WEINSTEIN CO. CONSIDERING A BANKRUPTCY FILING?

The Weinstein Co. had been trying to stave off bankruptcy since the sexual misconduct scandal exploded in October, prompting the company to fire Harvey Weinstein as CEO.

The movie studio had been on the brink of \$500 million deal to sell its assets to an investor group outside of bankruptcy when New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman filed a lawsuit two weeks ago that halted the proceedings.

The buyers' group, led by former U.S. Small Business Administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet, had been in talks with Schneiderman's office in the hopes of reviving the sale, but the board of the Weinstein Co. pulled the plug Sunday.

In a letter to the buyers, the company said the group had failed to come through with interim funding necessary to keep the company running pending finalization of the sale. The letter also said that the buyers, following a Feb. 21 meeting with the attorney general's office, imposed other conditions that would delay a closing of the sale for many months, something the company could not afford. The company said an orderly bankruptcy process has become the only viable option.

In a statement Monday, Contreras-Sweet said she was surprised by the Weinstein Co.'s decision and that it has been her "understanding that we were close to signing the transaction documents in a couple of days."

### WHO IS SUING THE WEINSTEIN CO.?

Civil lawsuits have been piling up accusing the company of aiding and abetting Weinstein's misconduct. Among those is a proposed class-action suit filed in New York alleging that Weinstein's former film companies operated like an organized crime group in relation to the former CEO's

sexual harassment and assaults. The lawsuit was filed by six women but could potentially involve hundreds more. In another lawsuit, a former personal assistant for Weinstein details several abuse allegations, including being forced to take dictation from him while he was naked.

Schneiderman's lawsuit was filed on behalf of the Weinstein Co.'s employees. The attorney general accused Weinstein of demanding sexual favors from some employees and forcing others to facilitate his sexual conquests. The lawsuit said the company knew of his behavior and failed to protect its employees from it.

The Weinstein Co. has said it was unaware of Weinstein's alleged conduct and that he was solely responsible for his actions. Harvey Weinstein has denied any allegations of assault.

### WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE LAWSUITS NOW?

A chapter 11 bankruptcy filing would halt any civil lawsuits that have been filed against the Weinstein Co.

It would also give the company's secured creditors priority over the women suing

the company, which has at least \$225 million in debt that would have been inherited by the Contreras-Sweet group.

Some Weinstein accusers had fiercely advocated for selling the studio outside bankruptcy, seeing it as their only chance at getting financial compensation from the company. Lawyer Gloria Allred, who represents some of the accusers and publicly backed the Contreras-Sweet proposal, said she was concerned no money would be left for plaintiffs in the event of a bankruptcy.

The Contreras-Sweet group would have set up a victims' compensation fund beyond the \$30 million the company's insurance provides. After a meeting with Schneiderman's office last week, the group committed to dedicating up to \$90 million for the fund, which would have been overseen by an independent administrator. Now, if the bankruptcy filing proceeds, the accusers will be left with the insurance money and whatever is left after creditors are paid.

The Chapter 11 filing, however, would not stop the lawsuit filed by Schneiderman's office. It also would not prevent the civil lawsuits from going forward against other named individuals and entities.

## Ivanka Trump's dual roles as senior adviser, first daughter

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Ivanka Trump expects to be treated seriously as a senior White House adviser. But when faced with uncomfortable questions about her father's treatment of women, she'd prefer to be viewed as just a daughter.

President Donald Trump's elder daughter drew fresh scrutiny Monday for an NBC interview in which she argued that a query to her about the women accusing the president of inappropriate behavior was "pretty inappropriate."

The comment highlighted her complicated roles as both first daughter and advocate for women and families, serving in an administration led by a president accused of inappropriate behavior by more than a dozen women.

Asked if she believed the accusations against her father, Ivanka Trump said: "I think it's a pretty inappropriate question to ask a daughter

if she believes the accusers of her father when he's affirmatively stated that there's no truth to it. I don't think that's a question you would ask many other daughters."

Trump has denied the allegations, and his daughter said she stood by him.

"I believe my father, I know my father," she said. "I think I have that right as a daughter, to believe my father."

She was interviewed after leading the U.S. delegation at the closing ceremony for the Winter Olympics.

Katherine Jellison, who heads the history department at Ohio University, said Ivanka Trump appeared to be trying to have it both ways.

"You're either a senior adviser or a daughter. She's in this unique position that she's still trying to work out," said Jellison, an expert on first families. "Especially since she was last in the news as a senior adviser going to the Olympics."



# Ed Sheeran is world's best-selling recording artist of 2017

LONDON (AP) — If you think there's no escape from the songs of Ed Sheeran, you may be right.

A global music industry group says the British singer-songwriter is officially the best-selling recording artist of 2017.

The International Federation of the Phonographic Industry says Sheeran had the world's top-selling album last year with "Divide," as well as the best-selling single, "Shape of You."

The group's chief executive, Frances Moore, said Monday



Singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran, center, arrives for the screening of the film 'Songwriter' during the 68th edition of the International Film Festival Berlin, Berlinale, in Berlin, Germany, Friday, Feb. 23, 2018.

## Heather Locklear arrested for alleged domestic violence

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP)—Actress Heather Locklear was arrested for investigation of domestic violence and fighting with sheriff's deputies at her California home, authorities said Monday.

Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance around 10 p.m. Sunday in Thousand Oaks, west of Los Angeles, Ventura County sheriff's Capt. Garo Kuredjian said.

The victim of the alleged domestic violence was a boyfriend who had a physical injury, which makes the offense a felony, Kuredjian said. He did not know details of the injury, but said the man declined treatment.

Locklear was uncooperative with the deputies and became combative, Kuredjian said.

"She was kicking at and pushing our deputies," he said.

She was also arrested on three misdemeanor counts of battery on a peace officer.

Locklear said she had been injured prior to the deputies' arrival and was taken to a hospital and cleared medically before being booked into county jail. She was released on \$20,000 bail and is due in court on March 13.

An attorney for Locklear de-

clined comment.

The 56-year-old actress was among the biggest stars on television in the 1980s and 1990s, with roles on "Dynasty," "T.J. Hooker" and "Melrose Place."

Authorities did not release the name of the boyfriend who was involved in the call. Locklear has been married twice—to Bon Jovi guitarist Richie Sambora from 1986 to 1993 and to Motley Crue drummer Tommy Lee from 1994 to 2007. An engagement to fellow Melrose Place actor Jack Wagner was called off in 2011.



Locklear

## Actress Stacey Dash files for California congressional race

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Stacey Dash, the actress turned conservative political commentator, has filed paperwork to run for a congressional seat in Southern California.

Documents submitted Monday to the Federal Election Commission show the "Clue-

less" star intends to run as a Republican in California's 44th District, a seat held by Democrat Nanette Barragan.

Registered Democrats outnumber Republicans by a wide margin in the Los Angeles-area district that contains the areas of Compton, Watts, San Pedro

and North Long Beach.

A representative for the 51-year-old Dash didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. Dash hinted on social media this month that she was considering a run, even posting a "Dash to DC" logo.

that Sheeran's success "is astonishing and testament to his ability to write and perform songs that connect with a truly global fan base."

The IFPI's Global Recording Artist of the Year Award measures sales in both digital and physical music formats.

The 2016 winner, Drake, came second in 2017. Rounding out the top five were Taylor Swift, Kendrick Lamar and Eminem.

## SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

### CBS launching a 24-hour streaming sports news network

CBS Corp. is rolling out a 24-hour streaming sports news network that will feature the day's top news, highlights and analysis. The company said Monday the network will have a DVR-like functionality that allows viewers to watch previous segments and jump back into live programming seamlessly. CBS Sports HQ is available on CBSSports.com; the CBS Sports app for key connected TV devices including Amazon Fire TV, Apple TV and Roku; the CBS Sports mobile app for iOS and Android; CBSN and the CBS All Access subscription service. The announcement comes as ESPN continues to struggle, cutting staff as it shifts its focus to digital. The 38-year-old network has been squeezed by rising fees to broadcast live events. ESPN also has lost about 10 million subscribers during the past six years, based on estimates by Nielsen Me-

## Kevin Smith says he had a heart attack after show Sunday

NEW YORK (AP)—Actor-director Kevin Smith says he had a "massive" heart attack after performing at a Los Angeles comedy show Sunday night.

Smith said on Twitter early Monday morning that if he hadn't canceled his second show Sunday and gone to the hospital, he would have died. Smith credited a doctor with saving his life after the

47-year-old "Clerks" filmmaker suffered a total blockage of his left coronary artery, often referred to as "the widow maker."

Smith posted a photo of himself lying in a hospital bed looking stunned. He added: "For now, I'm still above ground."

Representatives for Smith didn't immediately return messages Monday.

dia Research.

### State of the art: Museum takes hi-tech look at Vermeer

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—This really is state of the art research. Experts at the Mauritshuis museum in The Hague are using the latest technology to take a long, hard look at one of their most prized paintings, Johannes Vermeer's "Girl with a Pearl Earring," and they are inviting the public in to watch. For two weeks starting Monday, experts are pointing a battery of high-tech machines at the 17th-century masterpiece of a young woman whose enigmatic gaze has earned her the nickname of the Dutch Mona Lisa. The iconic painting was last studied in 1994 during a conservation project. In those days, they took paint samples from the priceless work to examine. Since then, technology has made such advances that the museum says scanners and X-ray machines that don't even touch the surface of

the canvas can provide new insights into how Vermeer painted the girl and the materials he used.

### Trevor Noah among featured speakers at BookExpo breakfast

NEW YORK (AP)—Expect some laughs, and more serious talk, at this year's adult author breakfast at BookExpo. Convention organizers ReedPop told The Associated Press on Monday that "Daily Show" host and best-selling memoir writer Trevor Noah will be a featured speaker at the May 31 event. So will Megan Mulally and husband Nick Offerman, who will serve as co-hosts. Other guests will include fiction writers Barbara Kingsolver and Nicholas Sparks and historian and New Yorker staff writer Jill Lepore. BookExpo is the publishing world's annual national gathering. It will take place May 30-June 1 at the Jacob Javits Center in Manhattan, and will be immediately followed by the fan-oriented BookCon.

## Off-and-on relationship may be off again after confession

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Al," and I have been together for two years off and on. We dated casually for six months before we decided to be exclusive. Unbeknownst to him, I was also sleeping with someone else, "Brandon."

Al and I had a fight and broke up for a few months, and during that time I slept with another good friend of mine, "Marc." When Marc and I decided it wasn't serious and moved on, Al and I got back together.

I didn't feel obligated to tell Al about it at the time, since "technically" I did nothing wrong. But as we became more and more serious, it occurred to me that it was a lie of omission, since we interact with both men on a social level. I told Al, and he isn't handling it well, so now I'm at a loss about what to do.

Honesty and time are key, I know, but he is distancing himself from me. Do I let him go? I am fighting hard right now, but I'm feeling beaten down at every turn.

WRONG IN THE EAST

DEAR WRONG: Not all relationships last forever. It's possible that this one has run its course.

If you and Al had agreed you would both be abstinent after the separation, he has reason to be upset. If you had promised each other there would be an accounting of who each of you had been with and you didn't live up to it, I can see why he would be distancing. However, if an understanding wasn't in place, then you were free to be with others and you did nothing wrong.

If Al no longer wants to be with you—for whatever rea-

son—you have no choice but to let him go. For your sake, quit allowing yourself to be beaten down and make it as painless for yourself as possible.

DEAR ABBY: Is it wrong to paint my 2 1/2-year-old boy's fingernails when he begs me to? I'm a stay-at-home mom and very close with my son. When I paint my nails (I paint them pink), my son sees me and insists I paint his toes and fingers "just like Mommy."

I see it as all in fun, but my mother-in-law makes snide comments about him being a boy and that boys shouldn't have their nails painted. My husband has also said I should stop.

I know my son will want me to paint his nails only a little while longer. It's not harming anyone, and I'm sick of all the gender barriers. Am I wrong here?

PRETTY IN PINK

DEAR PRETTY: Your mother-in-law appears to think that polishing your 2-year-old's nails will "make" him effeminate. It's no more valid than her not doing it has "made" your husband masculine. Ignore the snide remarks because you are not going to change her.

Whether your little boy wants you to continue painting his nails pink—or, for that matter, to wear something pink—is far less important than making sure he knows you love and support him and it's OK to be HIMSELF. That's the way parents raise confident and successful children.

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR ABBY: What is your opinion about elderly parents who no longer drive having to pay their children to drive them to appointments, grocery, etc.? Think of all the times parents drove them when they were growing up.

RETURNING THE FAVOR

DEAR RETURNING THE FAVOR: Most adult children with a memory would never dream of asking to be paid for driving their elderly parents. A child who would do this must be desperate for money. In my opinion, because they are paying for it anyway, the parents should make other arrangements for transportation.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



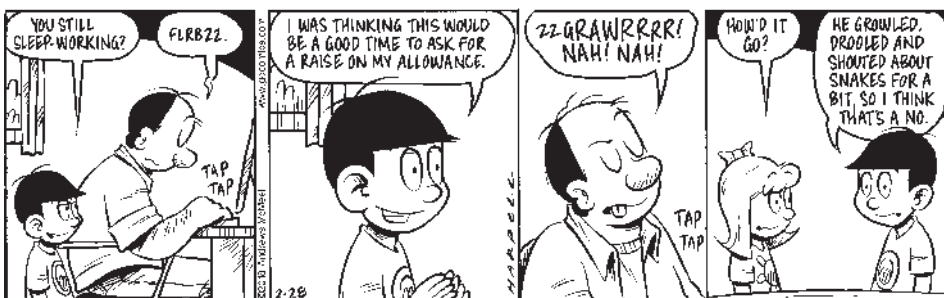
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



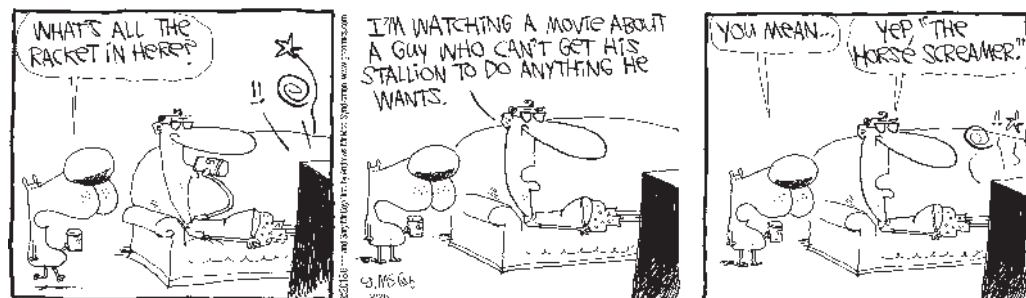
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Atlas green  
4 Napkin's color  
7 Title spot  
8 Tooth-paste holders  
10 Detox center  
11 Egyptian deity  
13 Highway haulers  
16 N.J. neighbor  
17 Frank — Wright  
18 DIY buy  
19 Animation frames  
20 Pub potables  
21 Humiliate  
23 Daisy Mae's guy  
25 Quarry  
26 Shortly  
27 Succor

**DOWN**

1 Taj —  
2 Latin 101 word  
3 Wilma and  
4 Lascivious  
5 Free as —  
6 Lima's land  
7 Takeout order?  
8 Fussess  
9 Reaping tool  
10 "May-berry —"  
12 Winter Olympian  
29 Alpha's opposite  
30 Hungarian-born financier  
31 Tolkien creatures  
32 Bat wood  
34 Prompt-ed  
35 Suitable

**Solution time: 23 mins.**

T	O	G	S	V	A	L	U	B	E	R
A	L	J	M	I	D	C	N	A	L	A
L	I	H	A	C	O	U	H	E	S	Y
C	O	U	C	H	E	S	A	R	E	S
K	O	S	A	G	E					
E	L	I	S	E	C	O	U	S	I	N
N	E	O	U	R	G	I	A			
C	O	J	N	T	R	Y	T	H	I	N
E	O	N	M	A	A					
A	M	P	L	E	C	O	U	G	H	E
C	O	U	L	D	Y	O	G	O		
H	A	R	I	U	P	S	L	O	G	O
E	T	R	E	M	A	F	E	D	O	M

Yesterday's answer 2-28

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Jason Aldean, 41; Ali Larter, 42; Eric Lindros, 45; Pat Monahan, 49.

**Happy Birthday:** Opportunities will require a little work to discover. They will be available to you, but you will miss out if you don't do your part and follow through. Channel your energy into getting ahead personally and professionally. Making special efforts to increase your income or to spend more time with people who have something to offer in return will allow you to explore what's available. Your numbers are 9, 13, 21, 27, 34, 36, 43.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Short trips, exercise and learning are all favored. The more you do, the greater the overall change will be to the way you live life and the people you choose to share your thoughts and ideas with. Explore new interests. ★★★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Try to do what you can to help others. The satisfaction you get and the difference you make will give you greater incentive to do more and complain less. Less talk and more action will bring the highest returns. ★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** The simpler, the better. If matters become too convoluted, you will end up confused and trying to compensate for something you shouldn't. Stick close to home and concentrate on making personal improvements. Don't put up with someone's mind games. ★★★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Watch what your peers do and consider how to best make use of your skills to comple-

ment what others are offering. Doing your best to fit in will lead to greater popularity and the chance to move into a key position. ★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Change can be good if you think matters through before you lay your money on the table. Don't trust anyone to look out for you. Negotiate on your own behalf and be prepared to walk away from unfair situations. ★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Keep costs in mind. Downsizing or making your living arrangements more efficient and affordable is a good place to begin. Don't get angry or keep secrets that will need to be revealed in order to bring about change. ★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** You'll have a change of heart. Look at the pros and cons before you disrupt your home and personal life. Try to find ways to combine others' talents rather than being divisive in the way you handle situations and people. ★★★★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Put in the hours and don't stop until you have taken care of business. The changes you implement will be helpful when dealing with people you want to incorporate into your plans. Embrace change and don't be afraid to be unique. ★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** You can make personal changes that will improve your life and your health. Get into a fitness routine and start paying more attention to what you eat. Being the best you can be will translate into personal success. ★★★★★

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** You'll be pulled in two different directions. Your common sense will take you one way and your desire & impulse will take you another. If you find that you are drifting into uncomfortable territory, stop, regroup and rethink your options. ★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Try your hand at helping others or giving back to your community. You'll be pleasantly surprised by the way it makes you feel and the friendships you develop. Exercise, proper diet and a positive attitude should be a priority. ★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Take the time to fine-tune whatever job you are given. Your attention to detail will make a difference when presenting what you have accomplished. Update your look and engage in events that are conducive to working with people you can learn from. ★★

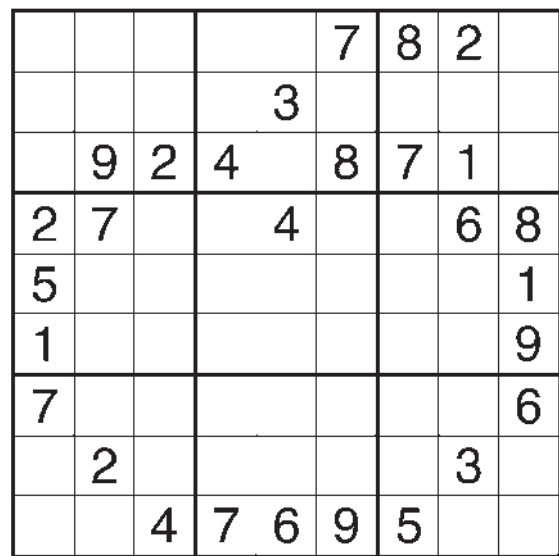
**Birthday Baby:** You are outgoing, opportunistic and aggressive. You are powerful and convincing.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit [Eugenialast.com](http://Eugenialast.com), or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

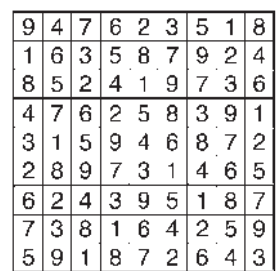


Difficulty Level ★★

2/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

2/28

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

PRINCE HARRY & MEGHAN MARKLE ENGAGED! Sol.: 9 letters

E A C H A P E L G E O R G E K  
N L N M A I L L I W E O T E  
O B K A O A S E C R E T W A N  
R E C R W I C C S A N A N K S  
H R F E A S T T H O K D T U I  
T T F C L M T P R A H E I R N  
R N R N E A N O E E R T B G G  
A E U E S Y T A B C S L L U T  
D V I P W E L S H G E S E E O  
I E T S N D N A L G A R S S N  
T N H T E B A Z I L E L S T A  
I U O G E E D I A N A M I S L  
O E M N U H E N R Y O R N W P  
N G A I Q A I R O D L O G E E  
P V S R C H A R L O T T E N S

©2018 Andrews McMeel Syndicate, Inc. www.wonderword.com

2/28

Actress, Albert, Blessing, Botswana, Cake, Camp, Chapel, Charles, Charlotte, Date, Diana, Doria, Elizabeth, Event, Feast, Fruit, George, Gold, Gown, Guests, Hair, Henry, Kate, Kensington, Markle, May, Meghan, News, Plan, Queen, Ragland, Reception, Ring, Royals, RSVP, Secret, Spencer, Suits, Thomas, Throne, Toronto, Tradition, Venue, Wales, Welsh, William

Yesterday's Answer: Influential

Treasures 13 through 29 can be purchased online at [www.WonderWordBooks.com](http://www.WonderWordBooks.com).

## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



CLASSIFIED ADS

Danes Construction Corp.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN  
(1) COMPUTER SUPPORT TECHNICIAN

Interested applicants may send their resume to danes@guam.net

Han's Trade Corp

P.O. Box 503386 Saipan MP 96950

Is looking to hire

2- COOKS

1- SALES ASSOCIATE

For more information, please call 235-3939

Island Pro Services

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

▪ (6) Commercial Cleaner  
▪ (4) Operational Service Worker

Minimum wage. Two to five years experience in a related field. For inquiries or resume submission, please email islandpro2015@gmail.com  
*Serious Inquiries Only Please*

Triple Star Int'l Corp.

P.O. Box 503616 Saipan MP 96950

Is looking to hire

2- Machinery Mechanic  
1- Accountant  
1 - Gen. Manager  
1 - Welder

For more information, please call 323-0362.

Yueyang Int'l Corporation

PMB 87 Box 10003 Saipan MP 96950

Is looking to hire

1- Gen. Manager  
1- Baker  
1 - Tour Guide

For more information, please call 285-6134.

EMPLOYMENT

(1) Maintenance Repairer-\$7.05/hr. with 4-years exp. Email JJ Brother Corp. at jjbrothercorp@gmail.com.

WHATZIT Solution:  
Good afternoon

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

12:00 GOOD

WHATZIT? is 2018 www.xnabiz.com  
Designed by Andrew Nida as Syndicator

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

American Create Beauty Corporation

(5) Sales Associates  
(1) Cleaner

7.05-10.05/hour depends on experience.  
*Existing work experience is a plus.  
Chinese language skill is a plus.  
US citizen and Green card preferred.*

Contact 488-1868  
Submit resume via mail: ahesaipan@gmail.com

American Create Beauty Corporation

(2) Western food cook  
(3) Serving staff  
(1) BBQ cook  
(1) Maintenance/cleaner  
(1) Manager

7.05-10.05/hour depends on experience.  
*Existing work experience is a plus.  
Chinese language skill is a plus.  
US citizen and Green card preferred.*

Contact 488-1868  
Submit resume via mail: ahesaipan@gmail.com

American DongSheng Corporation

(6) Sales Associate  
(1) Manager  
(1) Commercial Cleaner/Stocker  
(1) Driver/Deliver/Cleaner  
(2) Warehouse clerk

7.05-10.05/hour depends on experience.  
*Existing work experience is a plus.  
Chinese language skill is a plus.  
US citizen and Green card preferred.*

Contact 488-1868  
Submit resume via mail: ahesaipan@gmail.com

American Pretty Car Rental

(1) Manager  
(2) Commercial Cleaner

7.05-10.05/hour depends on experience.  
*Existing work experience is a plus.  
Chinese language skill is a plus.  
US citizen and Green card preferred.*

Contact 488-1868  
Submit resume via mail: ahesaipan@gmail.com

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
RFP NO.: RFP18-BECQ/DCRM-059

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 14, 2018      TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“ECONOMIC VALUATION STUDY OF THE CNMI WETLANDS  
FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL & COASTAL QUALITY,  
DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA  
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)  
ITB 18-CHCC/MSO-002

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MARCH 19, 2018      TIME: 9:00AM

COMMERCIAL BOX TRUCK/MSO  
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

COPIES OF THE ITB PACKET MAY BE PICKED – UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY BIDS, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA  
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO  
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

LOOKING TO HIRE

Electricians and Helpers

Electricians starting from \$12-18/hr and Helpers for \$9/hr.

Bring resume to Marianas Business Plaza (3rd floor – 309)

For more information, contact Alan at 285-5499 or 234-4800

American Pretty Tour Corporation

(6) Tour Guide  
(1) Manager

7.05-10.05/hour depends on experience.  
*Existing work experience is a plus.  
Chinese language skill is a plus.  
US citizen and Green card preferred.*

Contact 488-1868  
Submit resume via mail: ahesaipan@gmail.com

THANKS SAIPAN CORPORATION

(1) OPERATION MANAGER

• Must Have 4 years experience in Managerial Position.  
• Can speak English, Korean and Chinese

Contact Person: **Jane Kim**  
Contact Number :**783-0085**

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)  
RFP 18-CHCC/CGC-005

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MARCH 19, 2018      TIME: 9:00AM

“VEHICLE LEASE  
COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER-  
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION”

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA  
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO  
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PC Bargain Corporation is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

General Manager

Must have a bachelor's degree in college preferably in Business and Marketing Management with at least 5 years work-related experience in Sales, Marketing and in Food Service business (for restaurant operation) with emphasis on strategic planning of operations. General Manager must possess an extensive work experience primarily in the given fields, must be a dynamic team player and must be able to handle diverse operational situation in any given circumstances. Must be able to work flexible hours as the need arises.

Sales Supervisor

Must have an associate degree in college preferably in Business and Marketing Management with at least 5 years work-related experience in Sales and Marketing. Sales Supervisor must spearhead the company's business outlook and a dynamic team player. Must be able to work under time pressure and flexible hours

Sales Associate

Must have an associate degree in college preferably in Business and Marketing Management with at least 5 years work-related experience in Sales and Marketing with emphasis on sales strategies, revenue management, and with experience in inventory control and management. Proficient in the use of software programs such as but not limited to MS Word and Excel software and Peachtree Inventory System. Sales Associate must possess experience primarily in the given fields, must be a dynamic team player and be able to strategically project the business operation and reporting. Must be able to work under time pressure and flexible hours.

Cook (2) – Salut Restaurant

5 years of experience in kitchen operation with specialty on various Filipino and International cuisine. Must be able to work under time pressure and flexible hours.

Applications can be submitted at PC Bargain Corporation located on the Ground Floor, Tun Kiku's Building at Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Friday, March 9, 2018.

PC Bargain Corporation is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

APEX BUILDERS, INC.  
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Accounting Technician (01) \$7.10 to 8.50 per hour  
Must be a High School Graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience as an Accounting Technician. Must Compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete. Perform any combination of routine calculating, posting, and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data for use in maintaining accounting records. May also check the accuracy of figures, calculations, and postings pertaining to business transactions recorded by other workers. Operate computers programmed with accounting software such as quick books and peach tree.

Auto Body Repairer (2) \$7.10 - \$7.40/hour  
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of two years' experience as Auto Body Repairer. With knowledge how to repair and refinish automotive vehicle bodies and straighten vehicle frames. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Maintenance Technician (2) \$7.10- 7.20 per hour (SOC) 499071.00  
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of two years' experience as Maintenance Technician. Perform work involving the skills of two or more maintenance or craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair. Duties may involve pipe fitting; boiler making; insulating; welding; machining; carpentry; repairing electrical or mechanical equipment; installing, aligning, and balancing new equipment; and repairing buildings, floors, or stairs. With knowledge on how to install, maintain, and repair electrical wiring Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience.


Machinist (2) \$7.10 - \$8.00 /hour  
Must be a high school graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience as a Machinist. Set up and operate a variety of machine tools to produce precision parts and instruments. Includes precision instrument makers who fabricate, modify, or repair mechanical instruments. May also fabricate and modify parts to make or repair machine tools or maintain industrial machines, applying knowledge of mechanics, mathematics, metal properties, layout, and machining procedures. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Sales Person (2) \$7.10 - \$7.50/hour  
Must be a college graduate with a minimum of two to 2 years' work experience as a Sales Person. Able to sell merchandises such as light/heavy vehicles, motor vehicle parts, heavy equipment parts and appliances to customers. Great customers and assist their needs and wants, as well as to explain the merchandises and its usage, operation and proper care. Capable of recommending, selecting and helping customers obtain desired and needed products. Calculate prices, tally purchases, compute receivables and process cash and credit payments. Prepare sale slips or sale contracts and place special orders to the suppliers for the customer's desired items. Enjoy dealing with customers and answering their questions regarding the store merchandises

Welder (01) \$7.10- \$7.50/hour  
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of two years' experience as a Welder. With knowledge how to use hand-welding, flame-cutting, hand soldering, or brazing equipment to weld or join metal components or to fill holes, indentations, or seams of fabricated metal products. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience.

All of the above positions must be able to work flexible time. Interested applicants may apply at Apex Builders, Inc. office located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills, testing may be required. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. Apex Builder, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.





COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055  
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS

FOR

AIRPORT GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (AGIS) SURVEY SERVICES

BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

PROJECT NO. CPA-RA-001-18 (AIP Pending)

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Airports Geographical Information Systems (AGIS) Services for the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

These services are being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and CPA. This service procurement is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, March 16, 2018, 5:00 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Capability to perform all or most aspects of the services with a minimum of three (3) years' experience with AGIS and Airport Improvement Programs. **(WEIGHT 30)**
- Ability to implement an AGIS Obstruction Survey and Airport Airspace Analysis. **(WEIGHT 20)**
- Key personnel's professional background and successful relevant experience in AGIS projects comparable to the proposed services. **(WEIGHT 20)**
- Demonstrated ability to meet AGIS standards, NGS requirements, and Airport Master Plan standards. **(WEIGHT 10)**
- Ability to complete services within schedule without having major extensions, cost escalations, overruns, or disputed claims; **(WEIGHT 10)**
- Quality of projects previously undertaken that are comparable to proposed services. **(WEIGHT 10)**

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf format of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2018**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

For the Commonwealth Ports Authority:

/s/

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

Date: February 28, 2018



JOB OPENINGS!!!

We are looking for passionate and energetic people who are customer-focused to be part of our growing team.

LANDSCAPER/PLANT OPERATOR

- 5-years plant operations experience
- Familiarity with regulatory requirements for operating plants (vegetables, fruits)

Disclaimer: Must be able to legally work in the CNMI (Saipan) without needing a work visa. Send resumes to [hr@mrisaipan.com](mailto:hr@mrisaipan.com) or pick up an application at our office from 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. Visit us at <http://www.kensingtonsaipan.com/en/>

SAIPAN

KENSINGTON

HOTEL

EOE/Drug Free Workplace

GPPC, INC.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Accounting Technician (04) \$7.10 - \$8.50/ hour or up to \$2,400.00 per month  
College graduate with a minimum of 5 years' experience as an Accounting Technician. Must Compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete. Perform any combination of routine calculating, posting, and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data for use in maintaining accounting records. May also check the accuracy of figures, calculations, and postings pertaining to business transactions recorded by other workers. Operate computers programmed with accounting software such as quick books and peach tree.

Administrative Assistant (01) \$7.10 - \$8.25 /hour  
Must be a college graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience. Knowledgeable on construction business. Provide high-level administrative support by conducting research, preparing statistical reports, handling information requests, and performing clerical functions such as preparing correspondence, receiving visitors, arranging conference calls, and scheduling meetings. May also train and supervise lower-level clerical staff. Prepare invoices, reports, memos, letters, financial statements, and other documents, using word processing, spreadsheet, database, or presentation software.

Architectural Drafter Technician (4) \$7.10 - \$8.75/hour  
College graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience as an Architectural Drafter Technician. Prepare detailed drawings of architectural designs and plans for buildings and structures according to specifications provided by architect. Capable of preparing detailed drawings of architectural/structural features of buildings as well as drawings and photographic relief maps used in civil engineering projects such as highways, bridges and other public works. Knowledgeable on building materials engineering practices/mathematics used to complete drawings drafts.

Auto Body Repairer (2) \$7.10 - \$7.25/hour  
Must be a high school graduate with minimum 2 years' experience as Auto Body Repairer. With knowledge how to repair and refinish automotive vehicle bodies and straighten vehicle frames. Sand body areas to be painted and cover bumpers, windows, and trim with masking tape or paper to protect them from the paint. Fit and weld replacement parts into place, using wrenches and welding equipment, and grind down welds to smooth them, using power grinders and other tools. Prime and paint repaired surfaces, using paint spray guns and motorized sanders.

Automobile Electrician (2) \$7.10 - \$7.50/hour  
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of five years' work related experience. Able to diagnose and undertake electrical repairs on a wide variety of vehicles and heavy equipment. With knowledge on electric motor, alternator, starter and motor rewinding.

Carpenter (28) \$7.10 - \$7.85/hour  
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of five years' experience as a Carpenter. With knowledge how to construct, erect, install, or repair structures and fixtures made of wood, such as concrete forms; building frameworks, including partitions, joists, studding, and rafters; and wood stairways, window and door frames, and hardwood floors. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Civil Engineering Technicians (4) \$7.10- 9.00/hour or up to \$2,200.00 per month  
Must be a college graduate with minimum of two years' experience as a Civil Engineering Technician with knowledge how to apply Theory and Principles of Civil Engineering in planning, designing and overseeing construction, structure maintenance and facilities under the directions of engineering staff or physical scientist.

Construction Manager (1 ) \$3,000.00-\$3,250.00 per month  
College graduate or with a minimum 5 years experience as a Construction Manager. Knowledge direct or coordinate through subordinate supervisory personnel activities in regards to maintenance of structures, facilities and systems. Participate in the conceptual development project and oversee its organization, scheduling, budgeting and implementation. Includes specialized construction fields such as carpentry or plumbing.

Diesel Mechanic (1) \$7.10 - \$7.25 /hour  
Must be a high school graduate with a minimum of five years' work related experience. Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul buses and trucks, or maintain and repair any type of diesel engines. Includes mechanics working primarily with automobile or marine diesel engines.

Electricians (9) \$7.10 - \$7.95 /hour  
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years experience as Electrician. With knowledge on how to install, maintain, and repair electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Able to install or service street lights, intercom systems, or electrical control systems.

General Maintenance (3) \$7.10 - \$7.30 /hour  
High school graduate with a minimum of 2 years experience as General Maintenance on how to install equipment. Perform work involving the skills of two or more maintenance or craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair. Duties may involve pipe fitting; boiler making; insulating; welding; machining; carpentry; repairing electrical or mechanical equipment; installing, aligning, and balancing new equipment; and repairing buildings, floors, or stairs.

Heavy Equipment Mechanic (14) \$7.10 - \$8.50 /hour  
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as Heavy Equipment Mechanic. With knowledge how to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automobiles, hydraulic, and pneumatic equipment, such as cranes, bulldozers, graders, excavators, trucks and conveyors, typically used in constructions.

Heavy Equipment Operator (34) \$7.10 - \$8.00 /hour  
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years' experience as HE Operator. With knowledge how to operate several types of power construction equipment, such as motor graders, bulldozers, trenching machine, scrapers, compressors, pumps, derricks, shovels, tractors, or front-end loaders to excavate, move, and grade earth, erect structures, or pour concretes and etc.

Machinist (1) \$7.10 - \$8.00 /hour  
Must be a high school graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience as a Machinist. Set up and operate a variety of machine tools to produce precision parts and instruments. Includes precision instrument makers who fabricate, modify, or repair mechanical instruments. May also fabricate and modify parts to make or repair machine tools or maintain industrial machines, applying knowledge of mechanics, mathematics, metal properties, layout, and machining procedures.

Mason (35) \$7.10 - \$8.10/hour  
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 3 years experience as Mason. With knowledge how to do smooth and finish surfaces of poured concrete, such as floors, walks, sidewalks, roads, or curbs using a variety of hand and power tools. Align forms for sidewalks, curbs, or gutters; patch voids; and use saws to cut expansion joints.

Mechanical Engineering Technicians (03) \$7.10-8.00 /hour  
Must be a college graduate with minimum of 2 years' experience as a Mechanical Engineering Technician with knowledge on how to apply Theory and Principles of Mechanical Engineering in planning, designing and overseeing construction, structure maintenance and other facilities under the directions of engineering staff or physical scientists.

Painter (4) \$7.10 - \$7.50/hour  
Must be a high school graduate with minimum 5 years experience as Painter. Knowledgeable on how to operate/tend various painting machines. Able to paint transportation equipment surfaces, such as automobiles, buses, trucks, trains, boats, airplanes ad etc.

Plumber (8) \$7.10 - \$7.90 /hour  
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years experienced as a plumber with knowledge to assemble, install alter and repair pipelines or pipe systems that carry water, steam, air or other liquids or gases. May install heating and cooling equipment and mechanical control systems and sprinkler fitters.

Rigger (02) \$7.10 - \$7.25/hour  
Must be a high school graduate with 2 years work experience on related field of construction. Set up or repair rigging for construction projects, manufacturing plants, logging yards, ships and shipyards, or for the entertainment industry.

Sheet Metal Worker (02) \$7.10 - \$7.25/hour  
High school graduate with minimum 2 years experienced as a Sheet Metal Worker. With knowledge on how to install pre-fabricated sheet metal ducts used for heating, air conditioning or other purposes

Steel Worker (7) \$7.10 - \$7.50 /hour  
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as a Steel Worker. With knowledge how to rise, place and unite iron or steel girders, R columns and structural members to form a completed structures or structural frameworks. May erect metal storage tanks and assemble prefabricated metal buildings. Position and secure steel bars or mesh in concrete forms in order to reinforce concrete.

Tower Crane Operator (02) \$7.10 - \$7.25 /hour  
High school graduate with a minimum of 2 years work related experience. Must be able to comply with all safety regulations and work with minimal supervision.

Truck Driver (1) \$710 - \$8.75/hour  
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2-5 years experiences as a Truck Driver with knowledge on how to drive a Tractor Trailer or Trucks that has a capacity of at least 26,000 GVW for various construction materials transportation.

Welder (10) \$7.10 - \$7.50 /hour  
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years experience as a Welder. With knowledge how to use hand-welding, flame-cutting, hand soldering, or brazing equipment to weld or join metal components or to fill holes, indentations, or seams of fabricated metal products.

All of the above positions must be able to work flexible time. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Interested applicants may apply at GPPC, INC. office located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills, testing maybe required. GPPC, INC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Closing Date: March 01, 2018.



# Vikings won't franchise tag QB Keenum



**MINNESOTA**  
(AP)—The Minnesota Vikings seem to be headed toward a high-stakes game at quarterback.

The safe move would have been to franchise tag Case Keenum. Keenum played well last season, the Vikings made the NFC championship game, and most NFL teams wouldn't risk the blowback over possibly letting their quarterback go after that type of season. Yet, the Vikings aren't expected to franchise tag Keenum, though they have until March 6 to change their minds. Keenum could hit free agency if he doesn't get the tag. Once Keenum can hit the open market he probably should take advantage of that, considering how many teams need a starting quarterback. He might get a deal that would make the franchise tag look like a smart investment.

The Vikings could still resign Keenum before or after free agency starts, though if that was their plan the safe move would have been to tag him now and work out a deal. The Vikings reportedly won't do that, and things get interesting.

The refusal to tag Keenum will lead to plenty of speculation that the Vikings will be in on Kirk Cousins. Cousins has more of a track record than Keenum. Cousins is unique among free-agent quarterbacks because he's still in his prime, healthy and very productive. The Vikings can't match teams like the Cleveland Browns and New York Jets when it comes to cap space, but according to OverTheCap.com they have a little more than \$49 million in projected cap space. That's enough to make Cousins a fair offer. There's no other team



Case Keenum, center, is not expected to get a franchise tag from the Minnesota Vikings.

that has that much cap space and also meets Cousins' desire to go to a team that can win right away.

Here's the doomsday scenario though: The Vikings strike out with Cousins, who goes for a bigger payday with the Jets, Browns or someone else. Keenum then decides to test the market and goes to another team that needs a quarterback like the Browns or Broncos. The Vikings don't have a high enough draft pick to take a ready-to-start rookie. They'd follow up a 13-3 season and a trip to the NFL's final four by scrambling to find a quarterback. That wouldn't play well with a fanbase that's desperate for a Super Bowl. Sam Bradford and Teddy Bridgewater can also become free agents,

and it would be hard to depend on either to start in 2018 due to health concerns.

The safe move for the Vikings would be to bring back Keenum. And it's quite possible Keenum showed signs of a true breakout last season at age 29. But the Vikings don't want to go the franchise tag route with him, and that will make them a very interesting team to watch the next few weeks.

In Charlotte, the Panthers released veteran safety Kurt Coleman and defensive end Charles Johnson, the team announced Monday, saving Carolina nearly \$6 million in salary cap space.

Coleman, 29, played the past three seasons with the Panthers. He had 11 inter-

ceptions in that span, tied for fourth-best in the NFL. With Coleman leading the way, the Panthers have had 51 interceptions since 2015, second in the NFL.

Coleman was scheduled to count \$5.15 million against the 2018 salary cap, according to reports; releasing him clears \$2.65 million in cap space.

Releasing Johnson, meanwhile, clears another \$3.25 million in cap space. Johnson, 31, signed a two-year extension last year worth \$9.5 million.

Johnson spent 11 seasons with the Panthers after Carolina selected him in the third round of the 2007 draft. He played 143 games for Carolina, the most by any defensive lineman. He ranks second

in franchise history with 67+ sacks and 20 forced fumbles.

Johnson was suspended four games last season for violating the league's policy on performance-enhancers,

## NFL seeking \$2 million from Jerry Jones over legal spats

**DALLAS** (AP)—The NFL is exploring options to get more than \$2 million in reimbursement for legal fees from Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones over his threat to derail Commissioner Roger Goodell's contract extension and support of running back Ezekiel Elliott's fight to avoid a six-game suspension, said a person with knowledge of the situation.

Many owners were consulted on seeking restitution, including members of the finance committee, according to the person who spoke to The Associated Press Monday on condition of anonymity because the matter hasn't been addressed publicly.

Some of the finance committee members are on the compensation committee that was at the center of what became a legal back-and-forth over Goodell's deal.

The attempt at restitution is rooted in a 1997 resolution that states owners can seek repayment for legal fees if a fellow owner is responsible for getting them involved in legal action.

The Cowboys declined to comment on the owners' actions.

Jones' attempt to derail Goodell's extension, which

came after Elliott was suspended over domestic violence allegations, led to a volley of threatening letters from lawyers for both sides.

After eventually relenting, Jones said after the owners meetings in December that he got what he wanted with an agreement to consider changes to the power of the commissioner's role through the league's constitution.

Jones denied that his attempt to scuttle the contract was tied to Elliott's suspension, but made repeated references to Goodell's power to punish players.

With Jones and Goodell in the same room for a news conference after the December meetings, the commissioner said he didn't take Jones' objections to the extension personally. Goodell also denied assuring Jones that Elliott wouldn't be suspended before announcing the punishment in August.

Jones and the Cowboys were supportive of Elliott's lawsuit, which was led by the players' union and resulted in federal court hearings in three states over a span of two months. The suit eventually failed and Elliott served the suspension.

## CONCACAF Gold Cup expands to 16 nations

**MIAMI BEACH, Fla.**  
(AP)—The CONCACAF Gold Cup will expand from 12 nations to 16 for the next edition in 2019.

The Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football also said Monday it will explore holding the 2019 tournament outside of the United States, possibly with some games in Central America and the Caribbean.

CONCACAF started the Gold Cup in 1991, and 11 of the 14 tournaments have been played entirely in the U.S. Two have been shared by the U.S. and Mexico, and one by the U.S. and Canada.

The U.S. is the defending champion after win-

ning its sixth regional title last year. Mexico has seven championships and Canada won in 2000.

The 2019 tournament figures to be the first significant test for the next U.S. coach. Bruce Arena quit in October after the U.S. failed to qualify for this year's World Cup, ending a streak of seven straight appearances in soccer's showcase.

CONCACAF said it will announce the Gold Cup qualifying process on March 7, when it reveals details of a Nations League tournament.

Meanwhile, Brazil federal police believe a 2014 World Cup stadium in the city of Sal-

vador was overpriced by more than \$130 million, and those funds were diverted to political campaigns.

Former Bahia state governor Jaques Wagner was among the targets of the investigation, federal police said in a statement on Monday. Wagner is accused of receiving about \$25 million in illegal money.

Federal police requested Wagner's arrest, but a local court said no.

Wagner's attorney, Pablo Domingues, said federal police made up the narrative of the alleged crime and the money amounts in the probe.

Fonte Nova Stadium hosted six matches at the 2014 World





# Rockets beat Jazz for 13th straight victory



**SALT LAKE CITY** (AP)—Time and again in the fourth quarter, Luc Mbah a Moute saw 7-foot-1 Rudy Gobert guarding him on the perimeter.

His eyes lit up.

After all, he had a feeling this might happen and the Rockets forward took advantage.

"I just slowed down and took what the defense gave me," Mbah a Moute said. "It's always fun to make them pay for a mismatch and make shots."

Mbah a Moute scored 15 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter and James Harden had 26 points to lift the Houston Rockets to their 13th straight win, 96-85 over the Utah Jazz on Monday night.

Playing the second side of a back-to-back set at high altitude, nothing seemed to come easy for the Rockets but the Jazz committed 22 turnovers, many of them unforced, to ease the pressure.

Mbah a Moute saw Denver center Nikola Jokic guard him for a while on Sunday night admitted it threw him off. Against the Jazz, he was ready.

"I watched the tapes this morning and saw how I could exploit it if ever that kind of matchup happened again. ... The opportunity presented itself so I was already prepared for it and I took advantage," Mbah a Moute said.

## Warriors 125, Knicks 111

In New York, Klay Thompson had 26 points and Stephen Curry scored 14 of his 21 in the third quarter, when the Golden State Warriors ran another opponent off the floor on their way to a 1 victory over the New York Knicks.

Kevin Durant added 22 points and nine rebounds for Golden State, which trailed by one at halftime before outscoring New York 39-18 in the third.

The Warriors improved to 3-0 since the All-Star break and beat the Knicks for the eighth straight time, one shy of their longest winning streak in the series. They won nine straight in 1963-64.

A night shy of the five-year anniversary of Curry's 54-point Madison Square Garden masterpiece, the Warriors showed how many weapons they have around him now, making 15 3-pointers and putting six players in double figures.

## Raptors 123, Pistons 94

In Toronto, DeMar DeRozan and Kyle Lowry each scored 20 points, Serge Ibaka had 19 and Toronto routed Detroit for its seventh win in eight games.

Pascal Siakam added 11 points as the Raptors im-



Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert, left, and Houston Rockets forward Tarik Black (28) battle for a rebound in the first half during an NBA basketball game Monday, Feb. 26, 2018, in Salt Lake City.

proved to 25-5 at home, the best record in the NBA.

The Eastern Conference leaders bounced back from Friday's overtime loss against Milwaukee, using spurts at the start of the second and third quarters to hand the slumping Pistons their third straight defeat and sixth in seven games.

Andre Drummond had 18 points and 18 rebounds but Detroit lost its fourth consecutive meeting with Toronto. The Pistons fell three games behind idle Miami for the final playoff spot in the East.

## Celtics 109, Grizzlies 98

In Boston, Kyrie Irving scored 25 points in three quarters of work and Boston beat Memphis.

Boston has won all three games coming out of the All-Star break. Terry Rozier finished with 15 points, and Jaylen Brown added 13.

After scoring a basket early in the second quarter, the Grizzlies went nearly eight minutes without a field goal. The Celtics rallied during Memphis' drought and used a 22-6 run to increase their lead to 55-30.

Boston (43-19) led by as many as 28 in the second half.

JaMychal Green had 21 points and 11 rebounds to lead the Grizzlies. Marc Gasol added 17 points, eight rebounds and eight assists.

Memphis (18-41) has lost 10 straight games and 10 consecutive on the road. The Grizzlies are also 0-10 on the road this season against the Eastern Conference.

## Nets 104, Bulls 87

In New York, Alan Crabbie scored 21 points and Brooklyn snapped an eight-game losing streak with a win

over Chicago.

Jarrett Allen and DeMarre Carroll each had 18 points for the Nets, and Joe Harris added 15.

Kris Dunn led the Bulls with 23 points and Lauri Markkanen had 19. Chicago has lost four straight and 13 of 16.

## Lakers 123, Hawks 104

In Atlanta, Brandon Ingram had 21 points and 10 rebounds, leading nine Los Angeles scorers in double figures, and the Lakers beat Atlanta for their third straight win.

Julius Randle added 19 points and 10 rebounds as the Lakers overcame 23 turnovers to keep their lead in double figures throughout the second half. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope had 14 rebounds and 10 points.

Taurean Prince scored 24 for the Hawks in their fourth straight loss.

## Pelicans 125, Suns 116

In New Orleans, Anthony Davis scored a season-high 53 points, grabbed 18 rebounds and blocked five shots as New Orleans extended its winning streak to six games with a victory over hapless Phoenix.

Jrue Holiday scored 20 points for the Pelicans, whose season-best unbeaten run has pulled them into a tie with Portland for fifth place in the Western Conference despite being without All-Star big man DeMarcus Cousins, who was lost for the season Jan. 26 with a torn Achilles.

Emeka Okafor, brought back to the NBA for the first time since 2013 about a week after Cousins' injury, scored 14 points.

Devin Booker had 40 points and 10 rebounds for the Suns, who lost their 10th straight and still haven't won this month.

Josh Jackson added 20 points and 12 rebounds for Phoenix, which led by as many as 17 in the second quarter but fell behind for good with about five minutes left in the fourth quarter.

## Thunder 112, Magic 105

In Oklahoma City, Paul George scored 26 points to help Oklahoma City defeat Orlando.

George, who scored just five points on 1-for-14 shooting in a blowout loss to Golden State on Saturday, shot 9 of 20 against the Magic and Frank Vogel, his coach when he played for the Indiana Pacers.

Steven Adams scored 16 points and Russell Westbrook had eight points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists for the Thunder.

Evan Fournier and Jonathon Simmons each scored 19 for Orlando, which lost its sixth in a row.

## Mavericks 109, Pacers 103

In Dallas, Harrison Barnes scored 21 points, J.J. Barea added 19 and Dallas beat Indiana.

The Mavericks ended a four-game losing streak and stopped Indiana's four-game winning streak. They also swept the two-game season series.

## US Open abandons 18-hole playoff

**PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. (AP)**—The U.S. Open is changing to a two-hole aggregate playoff, the last of the four majors to do away with an 18-hole playoff.

The change takes effect immediately and would be used at Shinnecock Hills on Long Island in June if there is a tie after 72 holes. The U.S. Golf Association also decided to make its other three open championships two-hole playoffs—the U.S. Women's Open, U.S. Senior Open and U.S. Senior Women's Open.

The U.S. Open has had 33 playoffs in its 117 years, all decided by 18 holes or more.

"There was a time when they did make sense before television, before the modern era of wanting everything decided immediately," said Mike Davis, chief executive of the USGA. "There is no correct way to determine a tie in stroke play."

The last U.S. Open playoff

was 10 years ago at Torrey Pines, where Tiger Woods beat Rocco Mediate in 19 holes for his 14th major.

The Masters was the first major to abandon the 18-hole playoff in 1976 when it changed to sudden death. The PGA Championship did the same a year later, and Lanny Wadkins won the first sudden-death playoff in major championship history in 1977 at Pebble Beach. The PGA later changed to a three-hole aggregate.

The British Open changed to a four-hole aggregate in 1986.

The U.S. Open used to have a 36-hole playoff, last used in 1931 when Billy Burke and George Von Elm tied after 72 holes, tied after the 36-hole playoff and then played another 36 holes. Burke won by one shot. Then, if 18-hole playoffs

were tied, another 18 holes were played. Starting with the 1990 U.S. Open, an

18-hole playoff that ended with a tie was decided by sudden death. Hale Irwin won at year.

Davis said the USGA chose a two-hole playoff to allow a player to recover from one bad shot and still keep the intensity of the playoff being decided quickly.

The 10-year stretch between playoffs is the longest in U.S. Open history.

"This came up about two months ago," Davis said. "We've had 33 playoffs since 1895. Do your math and that's one every 3 + years. For the last 23 years, we've had two playoffs. So it was proactive."

He said the USGA asked players, broadcaster partners, vendors and fans about ending the 18-hole playoff.





# Mariners silence Ballistics to recover from debut loss

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Mariners had five batters combining for 11-for-15 and capitalizing on the Ballistics' errors on their way to an easy 13-3 victory in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palcios Ballfield.

The win had the Shine Tenorio-managed Mariners bouncing back from a 12-7 defeat to Titanium during the league's opening week and

handing the Ballistics its second loss in as many games.

Ton Tenorio went 2-for-2 for the Mariners, including an RBI double in an eight-run scoring binge at the top of the fifth, and he also reached home plate twice. Shane Yamada had an RBI double in the first to put the Mariners on board and scored one run on a 2-for-4 performance at the plate.

Pat Tenorio scored twice after going 3-for-4, while K.J. DeLeon Guerrero went 2-for-3 with a double and two runs.

Nate Smith had a pair of RBI singles and two runs on a 2-for-2 batting for the on target Mariners.

The Ballistics committed 14 errors in the game, which the Mariners turned into five runs and used to move their runners to scoring position four times.

Derron Flores was tagged with three earned runs on seven hits with no strikeouts and one walk in 4 1/3 innings pitched, while Kainoa Wanket completed the win when



he shut out the Ballistics on one hit with one strike and one walk.

Wanket came in with one out at the bottom of the fifth and Keola Camacho about to bat. He forced the Ballistics second baseman to an infield fly then retired Vicente Cabrera to end the inning. Wanket, in the sixth, was backed up by their infielders, forcing Rejay Iskawa to ground out to second base before giving up a single to Jimmy Demapan and

walking J-Boy Mendiola.

An R.J. Renguul fielder's choice moved Demapan to third, but cost them Mendiola as the Ballistics catcher was tagged out at second on a timely throw by Mariners shortstop Yamada to Jerry Kintol for the second out. Demapan was then out at home as Mariners catcher DeLeon Guerrero made the throw to Wanket, who perfectly protected the plate to end the sixth.

Wanket pitched 1-2-3 in the seventh, fielding

Milo Mafnas' grounder to Nate Camacho for the first out then forcing Harry Nakamura to fly out at left field with Smith making the catch.

Ballistics centerfielder Ben Leon Guerrero, earlier, got on base on a Yamada error and moved within scoring position—to keep the game going—after the Mariners' previous defensive plays. Wanket, however, picked him off at third base with Pat Tenorio making the tag to wrap up the game.

## Tsunami Saipan swimmers leave for Tokyo meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



The eight Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan members are all set as they leave for Japan today to compete in the Tokyo Junior Sprint 2018 this weekend at the Tatsumi International Swimming Arena.

"They prepared enough for the competition and will do their very best," said Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura, who will accompany Nanaka and Kouki Watanabe, Asaka Litulumar, Isaiah Aleksenko, Hans Xu, Ashley and Aasish Dangol, and Maria Batallones to the March 3-4 meet. Also part of the Tsunami Saipan delegation are assistant coach Sanjay Dangol and team manager Yuko Kimura.

Each Tsunami Saipan swimmers will race in two events and Hiro said his swimmers are up for the tough challenge.

"Since it is a sprint competition, the victory or defeat will be affected by just 0.01 second difference. In other words, it is a very scary race, so we practiced for that 0.01 second. We did not practice any special things, but asked the swimmers to be conscious of the details of the daily practice. I am sure that will lead to good results," Hiro said.

The Tsunami Saipan coach added that the club's eight swimmers will be competing in Japan for their teammates who could not make the trip.

"They are honored to represent Tsunami Saipan. More than 30 swimmers are practicing with them, as hard as they can. They will do their best for their teammates," Hiro said.

Meanwhile, Tsunami Saipan thanked the following for their support to the club's participation in the Tokyo Junior Sprint: Hyatt Regency Saipan, Pacific Wine & Spirits, Tasi Tours, Inc., Kingfisher, Yano Enterprises, Inc., Mariana Resort & Spa, Java Joe's, C&R Corp., Summer Holiday Hotel, Thompson Law Office, Fishing Tackle Sporting Goods, Majestic Restaurant, YCO Corp., and CNMI Books

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan swimmers pose for a photo after their training session at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool last week. The eight swimmers will leave for Tokyo today to compete in the Tokyo Junior Sprint 2018



### NMA

From Page 28

idea of having a small fee for the use of the track oval. NMSA is a non-profit group and we need money to help us with the maintenance costs of the sports facilities here. We want to open the track this week. We plan to open it this week for the purpose of letting

the athletes train for the Micro Games. Public use will be limited for the meantime, as athletes who will compete in the Micro Games need to train," added Rogolifo.

He said that lanes one to six would be for the exclusive use of the CNMI athletics training pool, while seven and eight are reserved to those who would jog, walk, and run around the track.

They would set guidelines and other rules for the usage of the facility. Strollers, bicycles, and scooters are definitely not allowed to avoid the wear and tear of the rubber surface. Rogolifo said that they would also meet with officials from all NMSA-member federations to discuss the schedule and fees for the usage of the facility

"We will talk to soccer,

rugby, football, and frisbee which use the field. Soccer would soon have their own field, but they could still use the field here. It is only a matter of scheduling their activities," said the longtime CNMI sports official. "Right now the field is still closed. We're waiting for the grass to grow and at the same time we're looking for a compactor to even the field."

### ZAPANTA

From Page 28

Vargas, Marielle Gariguez, and Elizabeth Bona Phan.

The following coaches have been working with their respective clubs and their youth teams with Raymond affiliated with Kanoa Football Club. He is thankful for the opportunity to further hone his coaching skills.

"Understanding the 'three main moments in football' and 'principles of play' are the topics that really caught my attention because our instructor covered them in more detail. I have been coaching for a few years, but I have never had in depth knowledge on how to apply these principles into my training sessions," Raymond said.

"I always thought I did not have enough knowledge to be coaching the older competitive teams because I never played in the national team and the game

has been constantly evolving. I had players that knew more than me because they are training with the national team and competing abroad. With this experience (course), I have been able to plan and conduct better training sessions and explain in detail the objectives of each session. The only way to build better and more competitive players and teams is to get coaches licensed or certified," he added.

Meanwhile, Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Michiteru Mita welcomes Raymond to the pool and hopes more will join the ranks.

"Coaches have a significant impact on players and their development. To further develop CNMI players and their potential, we must also further develop and improve the skills of coaches. Currently, there are 17 C-licensed coaches and we would like to increase this to 45 to 50," Mita said.

### FALCONS

From Page 28

Toves to end the game.

### Little Legals 5, Pirates 2

Gregorio Pangelinan had a solo shot at the bottom of the fifth then struck out 14 to power the Little Legals past the Pirates.

He led off in the fifth and blasted a homer that made it 5-1 for the Little Legals. Pangelinan went on to pitch a complete game, limiting their opponents to two hits with Joshua

Atalig and Elvin Saimon scoring the Pirates' runs. He also walked three batters.

### JUNIOR LEAGUE Chiefs 11, Braves 1

Delbert Sablan had an RBI triple at the top of the fourth and the Chiefs capitalized on the nine errors by the Braves for the lopsided win last Saturday.

Shane Mallens pitched four innings in a starting job and limited the Braves to one hit, while fanning five and walking one.

Sablan closed out the game and got the first out when he forced Nate Buelong on a 1-3 play, while Heath Camacho grounded out to first baseman Patrick Celis. Tristan Norita was safe on first on an error by left fielder Tristan Rogolifo, but the game ended when Andre Macaranas flied out to Elray Castro at center field.

### SENIOR LEAGUE Falcons 5, Fielders 2

The infield's defense worked double time at the top of the seventh, as the Falcons defeat-

ed the Fielders.

Trevor Lieto led off with a triple, but was on the losing end of a double play after Donovan DeLeon Guerrero hit a line drive straight to the glove of Falcons shortstop Aven Evangelista.

Evangelista then threw to Ping Norita at third base, catching Lieto by surprise for the quick two outs.

Arby Yaguel ended the game when he forced Anthony Dizon to ground out to Norita for a 5-3 play with first baseman Mel Sablan.



# 2017 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League Semis

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Kanoa Resort's Sonny Encarnacion pulls up for a shot against three *Saipan Tribune* defenders during their semis game in the 2017 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Lerio Pagarao, right, escapes with a fastbreak layup, while Shirley's Ariel Drilon looks on.



Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Arjay Nonato, right, is fouled by Shirley's Coffee Shop's Ariel Drilon.



Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Elmer Esdreton, right, tries to dribble past Shirley's Keanu Diaz.



Kanoa Resort's Douglas Schmidt takes off for a shot in front of *Saipan Tribune*'s Hark Galarion, center, and John March Ong.



Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Wilfredo Francisco, center, loses the ball as he is tightly guarded by Shirley's Junar Guiab and Ariel Drilon.



Kanoa Resort's Carl Francisco, right, keeps the ball away from *Saipan Tribune*'s Jonmarch Ong.



*Saipan Tribune*'s Lalaine Pagarao receives a pass from teammate Jonmarch Ong, who is hemmed in by two Kanoa Resort defenders.





Vikings won't  
franchise tag  
QB Keenum

PAGE 24

# Saipan Tribune Sports

Rockets beat  
Jazz for 13th  
straight victory

PAGE 25



28 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2018

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Zapanta joins ranks of licensed coaches

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI's pool of licensed coaches continues to grow as one more completed the AFC "C" License Coaching Course held in Guam.

Raymond Zapanta attended the course that took place from Nov. 26 to Dec. 11 and was one of only 13 participants out of the original 24 who made the grade in the over 80-hour seminar. The course was held

at the Guam Football Association National Training Center with AFC Instructor Richard Sinapan of Malaysia and AFC Assistant Instructor Dominic Gadia of GFA conducting the theoretical and practical coaching sessions of the event.

"The course is designed to educate coaches how to organize, direct, and conduct basic coaching practice and is targeted mainly to develop the fundamental techniques, skills, and understanding of young players," Zapanta said.

"Each student will be examined in his/her practical coaching ability and knowledge and understanding of the laws of the game and its theory con-



tent," said Zapanta, who received the good news (passing the course) early this month.

With Zapanta getting his C license, the CNMI's pool now has 17 individuals. Patricia Coleman and Steve McKagan were the first ones to earn a C license in coaching after completing a Japan Football Association-sponsored course in 2010. Also on the select list are Raymond's brother Ruselle, Jerishwin Angeles, Mae Ito, Lalaine Pagarao, Jov Chavez, Jonathan Jones Takano, Aliilua Peteru, Ryu Tanzawa, Rodwealth Espana, Longwen Ji, Jeralyn Castillo, Mikky

See ZAPANTA on Page 26



GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Raymond Zapanta takes down some notes during one of the classroom sessions of the AFC "C" License Coaching Course held in Guam.

# Falcons soar past Braves

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Christopher Gonzales pitched a complete game and had a four-hitter to lift the Falcons to a 9-3 victory over the Braves in their Majors division match in the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Gonzales registered nine strikeouts and two walks against the Braves and also had an RBI single at the top of the first to put the Falcons on board. The Falcons then had three-run innings in the third and sixth with their impressive performance at the top of the

sixth giving them the comfortable lead.

At the bottom of the sixth, the Falcons forced Angel Deleon Guerrero to ground out on a 4-3 play by second baseman Achilles Evangelista and



Andre Jones at first. Gonzales then gave up a single to Fabio Norita before walking Wally Chong. Next up for the Braves was Raymond Deleon Guerrero, who got on base on an

error by shortstop Noah Aguon to load up the bases.

However, no Braves runner reached home, as Gonzales picked off Raymond Deleon Guerrero and retired Arden

See FALCONS on Page 26



JON PEREZ

A Falcons batter reacts after striking out in their Majors division game against the NSA Braves in the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

## NMA to oversee operations of soon to open track

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Sports Association and the Northern Marianas Athletics will be signing a memorandum of understanding that would name the latter as the official custodian of the track and field facility at the Oleai Sports Complex.

NMSA and NMA will sign the MOU as soon as both parties finalized the details of the agreement.

NMSA executive director Tony Rogolifoi said NMA would only act as the caretaker of the facility once it opens. NMSA through NMA would impose minimal fees to all the users of the facility, particularly to joggers, runners, and walkers.

Rogolifoi also told *Saipan Tribune* that NMA will be named as custodian of the facility, as NMSA doesn't have enough manpower to monitor the people who would use the track and this could pose problems in the collection of fees. They also have limited budget, which is not enough to hire additional staff.



JON PEREZ

Northern Marianas Sports Association has put up a temporary sign informing the public that the track is still closed, as NMSA is still doing some final repairs at the facility before it opens within the week.

"NMA will oversee the operations of the facility since we can't assign any of our staff to stay at the track from 8am to 8pm. I currently have five staff members that help in the maintenance of the other facilities at the sports complex," Rogolifoi told *Saipan Tribune*.

"The fees that we're going to charge are reasonable. NMA's role is to collect the fees from all those who would



use the track. The money that will be collected will help in the maintenance of the facility."

Meanwhile, Rogolifoi said that the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., which helped fund the rehabilitation of the CNMI's lone track and field facility, is already asking about the opening of the track and supports NMSA's plan to charge user fees.

"NMHC has supported the

See NMA on Page 26